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Japan

Tokyo To Restate Claim to Senkakus in Talks

OW0403114292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan will restate its claims to a group of contested Pacific islands when it holds regular consultations with China in mid-March in Beijing, a top Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday.

The talks, to be conducted by deputy foreign ministers, will be the 12th of their kind. The last meeting was in Tokyo in March 1991.

The source said the Japanese delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito, will say that Japan's physical claim over the disputed Senkaku islands is justified under international law and the historical record.

The delegation also will reiterate Japan's displeasure over China's recent move to declare sovereignty over the islands, he indicated.

Japan has vigorously protested the Chinese people's assembly's promulgation on February 26 of a law on territorial waters and adjacent waters. A Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman last week called for the law to be "rectified."

The law stipulates Chinese territory and includes the Senkaku islands, known as the Diaoyutai by China, as well as the Spratly Islands claimed, entirely or in part, by Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Brunei.

The law also authorizes the Chinese military to repel by force foreign ships found in the waters surrounding the claimed islands.

The talks in Beijing are expected to confirm an expected visit to Japan in April by Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin.

That visit, and a possible visit to China in the autumn by Emperor Akihito, are being organized as part of a series of events to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral relations.

Watanabe Welcomes Bush Veto of PRC Trade Bill

OW040307239: Tokyo KYODO in English 0704 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Wednesday welcomed U.S. President George Bush's rejection of legislation that would endanger China's low-tariff trade status with the United States, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Watanabe was quoted as saying Bush's veto Monday of a bill to impose conditions on China's most-favored-nation (MFN) trade status was a "wise" move that demonstrated his decision-making ability.

Officials said Watanabe made the remark in a meeting with Gaston Sigur, a former assistant secretary of state in the Reagan administration and now a professor at Georgetown University in Washington.

The bill, now likely doomed in Congress, links the preferential trade status—which gives Chinese goods the lowest available tariffs—to an improvement in Beijing's human rights record, an end to trade practices regarded as unfair, and measures to curb weapons proliferation.

It received overwhelming approval in the House of Representatives last November, but the margin was significantly smaller when the Senate approved the bill last week.

Bush's veto is thus likely to be sustained, as a two-thirds majority in both houses is needed to override a presidential veto.

Bush said in his veto message to Congress that while his administration shares the goals of the bill, "if we present China's leaders with an ultimatum on MFN, the result will be weakened ties to the West and further repression."

Solomon Plans Visit for Talks on Indochina

OW0403131692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon will come to Japan next week for bilateral consultations after a swing through Indochina and a visit to Hong Kong, Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday.

The sources said Solomon will brief senior ministry officials on his talks in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos just prior to a 10-day visit to the region by Vice Parliamentary Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa, starting March 18.

They said Solomon is also expected to exchange views with the Japanese officials about the difficult state of U.S. relations with China and the mutually unsettling issue of North Korea's controversial nuclear facilities.

The sources said Solomon will meet Kakizawa, who plans to visit Vietnam and Cambodia to hold discussions with government leaders there on matters concerning regional reconstruction and economic assistance.

Another meeting is to be scheduled between the U.S. official and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who also plans to visit Indochina in the latter part of the year.

Solomon arrived in Hanoi earlier Wednesday to discuss the issue of American soldiers Missing in Action (MIA) during the Vietnam war and other humanitarian issues.

At U.S. insistence, Japan has been reluctantly stalling resumption of its economic assistance to Vietnam until the MIA issue is resolved to Washington's satisfaction.

But Japan has gone ahead with talks with Hanoi on repayment of arrears incurred by the former South Vietnamese Government. The debt issue must be resolved before aid can be resumed.

One ministry official said Japan "understands the delicacy" of the MIA issue for the Americans.

The official said that even if the debt issue were to be wrapped up soon, Japan could not begin implementing aid to Vietnam

He explained that Japanese aid is contingent on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reaching a consensus on the country's aid eligibility, something it has yet to do despite the efforts of France to prod the financial institution in that direction.

In a related development, government sources said Cambodian leader Hun Sen would be visiting Japan either en route to Washington or on the way back.

They said discusons with Watanabe and other officials are likely to center on an international conference on the reconstruction of Cambodia to be held in Tokyo in late June.

U.S. Ambassador Urges Review of Honda Ruling

OW0403070492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0617 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Osaka, March 4 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost said here Wednesday that Japanese and U.S. experts need to adjust differences in the coming months on interpretation of the local-content requirement of Canadian-built Honda cars.

Armacost made the remark while commenting at a news conference on a U.S. Customs Service ruling that a batch of Honda Civic cars made in Canada did not qualify for exemption from duties under the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement. The pact requires a North American content of at least 50 percent before products can be exempted from import duties. Armacost blamed Honda for part of the problem, saying the United States has a system for offering advice on whether companies are meeting the local content requirement but Honda failed to seek such advice for two years. Honda only asked for a last-minute delay in the ruling, Armacost said.

Honda Motor To Recall 77,816 Passenger Cars

OW0403113392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Honda Motor Co. told the Transport Ministry Wednesday it will recall 77,816 passenger cars because of engine defects.

Honda officials said the defective cars include 39,212 Accords and 22,725 Ascots produced between September 13, 1989 and February 20, 1991, and 15,879 Accord Coupes produced in the United States between January 29, 1990 and May 13, 1991.

They said that Honda exported 97,196 Accords and Ascots to 117 countries and the faulty cars may be among those shipped abroad.

The officials said the engine defects may cause the cars to stop and prevent the batteries from recharging.

Maintenance engineers found the trouble in an Accord car last October when a passenger took it to a dealer in Tokyo, complaining about a loud noise from the engine, the officials said.

U.S. Customs Informs Toyota of Car Inspections

OW0403070392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0552 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Nagoya, March 4 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. said Wednesday the U.S. Customs service has notified the automaker it would inspect the local content of Canadian-built Toyotas imported into the United States. The move would determine whether the cars' North American content is above the 50 percent required for duty exemption.

The U.S. Customs Service ruled Monday Honda cars assembled in Canada and shipped to the U.S. are liable for import duties, saying their North American content fell below the 50 percent level.

Toyota officials said they received a notice from the U.S. Customs Service last July, saying it would inspect Canadian-built Toyota Corollas, which are imported into the U.S. They said the U.S. has not yet begun inspecting the cars.

Toyota officials said they believe the inspection is a routine one stipulated in a free trade agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

Nissan To Expand Auto Parts Purchases in U.S.

OW0403034092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Nissan Motor Co. plans to purchase automobile parts from more U.S. companies in order to raise the local content of U.S.-built Nissan cars, the NIPPON KOGYO SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

The industrial daily said Nissan will increase the number of its U.S. parts suppliers by 60 percent to 320 within this year and will do its best to achieve its goal of expanding the value of its U.S. parts purchases to 2.9 billion dollars in fiscal 1994, which ends in March 1995. The move is likely to help pacify criticism among U.S. auto parts manufacturers against Japan's huge auto trade surplus with the United States, the paper said.

The paper said Nissan will buy parts from 23 new U.S. suppliers in connection with its U.S. production of the Stanza passenger car, known as Bluebird in Japan, scheduled to start this summer. Nissan also plans to buy parts from 140 new U.S. suppliers for Nissan-Ford minivans that are scheduled to be produced at U.S. plants of Ford Motor Co., starting next month, the paper said. The minivan was jointly developed by Nissan and Ford.

At the end of 1991, Nissan was buying parts from 157 U.S. companies, up from 83 in 1983, when the company started U.S. production. Nissan is currently producing Sunny subcompact cars and Datsun pickup trucks in the U.S.

Nissan pledged in January, during a Tokyo visit by U.S. President George Bush, to increase its purchases of U.S.-made auto parts to 3.7 billion dollars in fiscal 1994, up 180 percent from fiscal 1990. The figure includes 2.9 billion dollars worth of parts to be purchased for Nissan's U.S. assembly plants.

Seiyu, Matsushita To Finance L. L. Bean Japan

OW0403085192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Osaka, March 4 KYODO—Seiyu Ltd. said Wednesday it has teamed up with Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. to establish a company to import and sell clothes and outdoor equipment manufactured and marketed by L.L. Bean Inc. of the United States.

Seiyu and Matsushita will jointly finance L.L. Bean Japan Inc., which was set up Tuesday.

Seiyu, a major supermarket ranking third in sales, will furnish 70 percent of the new company's capital of 490 million yen.

Matsushita, one of the world's largest consumer electronics manufacturers, will put up the remaining 30 percent.

The new company intends to open its first store in Tokyo sometime this year.

They plan to set up five retail outlets selling outdoor sporting goods and sportswear all over the country within five years.

Kato: U.S. Senator's A-Bomb Joke Not Funny

OW0403081392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan's top government spokesman said Wednesday a U.S. Senator's joke about the atom bombing of Japan is not funny.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said he did not believe reasonable Americans would react favorably to South Carolina Sen. Ernest Hollings' advice to an audience of factory workers to "draw a mushroom cloud and put underneath it: Made in America by lazy and illiterate Americans and tested in Japan."

"I don't think (the remark) is representative of the views of Americans with sound judgment," Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

The spokesman declined to offer an interpretation of Hollings' comment, saying, "the government cannot comment on each remark by individual legislators."

Kato said, however, a "joke that uses the atom bomb cannot be said to be a good joke."

In a statement Tuesday, Hollings said he made the joke at the Roller Bearing Co. in order to illustrate that Japanese House of Representatives speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi's comment in January about American workers being lazy was incorrect, the ASSOCIATED PRESS [AP] said.

The 90 workers applauded the statement, the AP said.

LDP Leaves Antimonopoly Law to Top Officials

OW0403045792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—A panel of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Wednesday moved closer to approving legislation for revising the Antimonopoly Law to raise penalties against corporate violators.

The LDP's Commerce and Industry Division held a meeting and decided to leave the handling of the matter to the discretion of its chairman and vice chairman, LDP officials said. Most panel members expressed support for the legislation at the meeting, despite strong resistance among some LDP lawmakers, the officials said.

They said a bill to revise the law to hike penalties on violators to hundreds of millions of yen from the current 5 million yen is likely to be submitted to the current Diet session for enactment. There is widespread opposition in the business community to a recommendation made by a study group of the Fair Trade Commission that the penalties be raised to hundreds of millions of yen.

Japan had promised to raise such penalties in the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks, which are intended to remove structural barriers to trade with the United States.

Large-Scale Retail Stores Law Aids U.S. Firm

OW0403101492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Atsugi, Kanagawa Prefecture, March 4 KYODO—A Japanese subsidiary of U.S. toy retailing giant Toys "R" Us will open a shop in Atsugi, Kanagawa Prefecture, on March 31, company officials said Wednesday.

It will be the third Toys "R" Us store in Japan, following those in Ibaraki and Nara Prefectures.

The one-story, 4,108-square-meter Sagamihara outlet will hold some 15,000 toys and children's goods. The shop expects sales of some 2 billion yen in fiscal 1992 starting April 1, they said.

Helped by the revision of Japan's large-scale retail stores law as a result of the U.S.-Japan Structural Impediments Initiative talks, the company plans to open another eight shops in Japan by the end of next year, they said.

Minolta Firm To Pay Honeywell To Settle Suit

OW0403085692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Minolta Camera Co. said Wednesday it has reached a basic agreement with Honeywell Inc. of the United States to settle amicably a lawsuit involving the infringement of two Honeywell patents.

Minolta officials said the firm will pay Honeywell 127.5 million dollars.

Minolta, a leading Japanese camera maker, will sign a formal contract with the Minneapolis-based electronics company next Monday.

Honeywell filed a suit against Minolta in 1987 for intentionally infringing its patent for autofocus circuitry used in single lens reflex cameras.

Details of Settlement Reported

OW0403113492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Minolta Camera Co. announced Wednesday that the company has reached a basic agreement with Honeywell Inc. of the United States to settle their dispute over its violation of the U.S. firm's patents.

The leading Japanese optical instruments maker said the agreement calls for the company to pay 127.5 million dollars to the major U.S. measuring equipment manufacturer.

Honeywell had sued Minolta for violation of its patents involving auto focusing technology.

Minolta said a formal agreement of conciliation will be signed in the United States next Monday.

The sum to be paid by Minolta includes 12 billion yen ordered to be paid to Honeywell by a U.S. court, plus interest on royalties for patents used by Minolta in the past and license fees for the production and marketing of Minolta cameras using the Honeywell patents in the future, the company said.

In a related development, Honeywell has proposed to another major Japanese camera maker, Canon Inc., that they hold negotiations on the patent issue.

Canon officials said the company wants to hear views from the U.S. company before responding to the proposal.

The reconciliation will deal a heavy blow to Minolta, which is expected to post a pretax loss in the current fiscal year ending March 31 due largely to sluggish camera sales in the U.S.

Beside Minolta and Canon, Honeywell has announced a decision to seek damages from over a dozen other Japanese camera makers.

Industry sources said Japanese home electric appliances makers also are concerned over the development in negotiations between Honeywell and Japanese camera makers since the automatic focusing system used in their video equipment may also infringe upon the U.S. company's patent.

Settlement Concerns Industry

OW0403123592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The quick settlement of a patent dispute between Minolta Camera Co. and Honeywell Inc. of the United States has come as a big surprise to Japanese camera makers, industry sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the reconciliation, under which Minolta agreed to pay 127.5 million dollars to Honeywell, came earlier than expected.

The government's patent office declined to comment on the settlement, saying it is a matter involving private firms.

The office, however, warned Japanese manufacturers to exercise extreme caution in avoiding violation of foreign patents.

Other Japanese camera makers closely followed developments in the dispute between Honeywell and Minolta since they have received proposals for negotiations from the leading U.S. measuring equipment manufacturer, the sources said.

They said most Japanese manufacturers hope to solve the issue through negotiations instead of litigation.

At the center of the Minolta-Honeywell dispute was two patents involving automatic focusing technology for single-lens cameras developed by the U.S. company.

Kyocera Corp., a major electronic firm and maker of ceramics, said it plans to solve the issue through negotiations.

Nikon Corp., another major Japanese camera maker, claimed its products are equipped with technology developed by itself.

The sources expressed concern the matter may spread to cover audio visual equipment manufacturers.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., the world's largest consumer electronics firm, said its video products would not be affected since they use technology completely different from Honeywell's.

Sony Corp. also said its products do not violate Honeywell's patents.

Matsushita and Sony, however, said they will wait to see what actions the U.S. company will take.

Fujitsu To Sell Supercomputers Directly in U.S.

OW0403100192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. said Wednesday it has begun direct sales of its VP2000 supercomputers with its own brand in the U.S.

The major Japanese computer maker will distribute the machines through its subsidiary, Fujitsu America, in San Jose, California, which was established about two years ago.

Fujitsu expects to sell a few machines a year. They are priced from several hundred million yen to 2 billion yen, officials said.

Fujitsu had sold the VP2000 machines through Amdahl Corp., a Sunnyvale, California-based affiliate, with Amdahl's brand, but the mainframe computer supplier stopped distributing the machines two years and a half ago due to poor sales, the officials said.

Fujitsu has sold only three supercomputers in the U.S. and most sales have come from Amdahl's European subsidiary. The computer maker has had better luck in Europe, selling 30 machines so far.

For some time, the U.S. Government and some government agencies have held tenders only for U.S.-made supercomputers, and some U.S. companies were pressured from outside to give up purchases of foreign supercomputers.

NEC Corp., another Japanese supercomputer maker, lost out on a contract to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge in 1987 when the U.S. Government refused to fund purchases of foreign supercomputers for government or public research institutions.

Some American scientists and engineers, however, have recently begun to complain about not being able to purchase foreign supercomputers, an NEC spokesman said.

These scientists and engineers want to test the capabilities of foreign machines with current technology to see which is superior, the spokesman said.

NEC directly sells its supercomputers in North America, Europe, and Asia, but it entered into a marketing and sales agreement with Control Data Corp. of Minneapolis, Minnesota, in January to distribute its machines in the U.S. market.

Control Data recently gave up making supercomputers, leaving Cray as the only U.S. manufacturer of these systems.

Supercomputers are widely used by public research institutions to calculate complex scientific and engineering problems, and by petrochemical companies and automobile companies to perform computer simulations for oil exploration and car designs.

Comment on Draft Russian Constitution Avoided

OW0403034892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0338 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan's Government spokesman refrained from comment Wednesday on a draft Russian constitution that would require a national referendum on territorial issues such as Japan's claim to four disputed islands occupied by Russia.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference it would be inappropriate to comment on another nation's constitution. He said, however, that he believes Russian public opinion will be increasingly reflected in foreign policy-making.

"We will continue tenacious negotiations on the territorial issue with neither optimism nor pessimism," Kato said.

According to sources in Moscow, a draft constitution has been submitted to Russia's parliament. One article reportedly stipulates that any change in national borders must be decided through a referendum.

A senior Japanese Government source described the proposed constitutional provision as a new hurdle to a solution of the four-decade-old territorial dispute that has kept the two neighboring nations from concluding a peace treaty.

Nakasone Says Yeltsin's Remark 'Significant'

OW0403113892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 4 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has agreed to try to solve the problems relating to the territorial dispute and the conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan before the end of the century, former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Wednesday.

Yeltsin said in a meeting with Nakasone on Monday that he agreed with Nakasone's proposal to solve these problems by the year 2000, Nakasone said in a Russian television interview.

Nakasone said Yeltsin's remark is highly significant.

He said Yeltsin's planned visit to Japan in September will be a "turning point" and that he strongly hopes conditions for the conclusion of the treaty will be created during the visit.

Japan has said the territorial dispute over the four Russian-held islands off eastern Hokkaido must be resolved before the conclusion of a peace treaty and the establishment of full bilateral relations.

The islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai Group of islets—were taken by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Nakasone pointed out that history may have been wrongly taught in the former Soviet Union, saying the fact that some 60,000 of the 600,000 Japanese detained in Siberia had died was not taught in the country.

He added he would like to help bring about a correct understanding of the problems concerning the fixing of a border between the two countries, which is connected with the peace treaty.

ROK Minister Views Reprocessing Nuclear Fuel

OW0403084792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—A visiting South Korean minister suggested Wednesday that Seoul might request Japan to reprocess the spent nuclear fuel discharged from its nine operating atomic power plants.

Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin Hyun told a news conference Seoul is considering requesting Japanese cooperation in reprocessing radioactive waste from the nuclear power plants at a nuclear reprocessing plant under construction in Japan's Aomori Prefecture.

"A reprocessing plant will be completed in 1999 in the village of Rokkasho in Aomori Prefecture and there is still a certain span of time before its completion," Kim told reporters at the Science and Technology Agency in Tokyo.

Kim emphasized that the Seoul government does not plan to reprocess the nuclear fuel by building its own reprocessing facilities in South Korea.

He said Seoul has not ruled out the possibility that it might ask Britain or France to reprocess its spent nuclear fuel, "as Japan has done so far."

In South Korea, nine nuclear power plants are currently operating and jointly generate more than 50 percent of the country's electricity output. There are five more nuclear power plants under construction.

Kim also said he asked the Japanese Government to support Seoul's efforts to develop its own high technology when he talked with Science and Technology Agency Director General Kazuo Tanigawa earlier in the day.

"South Korea is determined to press ahead with its high technology development in order to become a peaceful country whose technological levels match those of developed countries," Kim said.

Seoul has listed 14 categories of technology, such as computers and new materials, as areas it wishes to emphasize.

Cambodia's Hun Sen Plans Visit in Mid-March

OW0403125992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen will visit the United States and Japan in mid-March for talks with U.S. and Japanese leaders on reconstruction of his war-torn country, Japanese Government sources said Wednesday.

Hun Sen will fly to the United States at the invitation of the U.S. Government, about six months after he attended a U.N. General Assembly meeting with Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk in New York, the sources said.

The talks between Hun Sen and U.S. Government leaders will center on U.S. assistance to Cambodia and stabilizing the SNC.

The SNC is a transitional authority until Cambodians choose a government in general elections to be held by May 1993 under control of the United Nations.

The U.N. will deploy 15,900-strong peacekeeping forces by the end of May to monitor ceasefires among rival factions and prepare for the elections.

Hun Sen will also visit Japan either on his way to the U.S. or coming back, the sources said.

He will hold talks with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and other Japanese leaders on an international conference on the reconstruction of Cambodia to be held in Tokyo in late June, they said.

Polish Labor Ministry Delegates Arrive in Tokyo

OW0403041192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Three Polish Labor Ministry officials arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday to promote labor relations with Japan, Japanese Labor Ministry officials said.

The Polish delegation is led by Andrzej Baczkowski, deputy minister of Poland's Labor and Social Policy Ministry, and will stay in Japan for 10 days at the invitation of the Japan Institute of Labor, an affiliate of the Japanese ministry.

During their stay in Japan, the three delegates will meet with officials of the Japanese Labor Ministry, the Japan

Federation of Employers' Associations, and the country's largest labor organization Rengo. The Polish officials hope to study ways of resolving labor disputes and triangular cooperation among the government, management and labor in Japan, the officials said.

The invitation is part of a Japanese Government program to help Eastern Europe promote market-oriented economy, the officials said.

Lithuanian President Landsbergis Arrives 4 Mar

OW0403110092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis arrived Wednesday on a six-day unofficial visit to Japan.

Landsbergis is the first top leader of Lithuania to visit Japan since the Baltic state seceded from the former Soviet Union last September.

Japanese officials said he will meet during his stay in Tokyo with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and other government leaders.

He is also scheduled to have an audience with Emperor Akihito and to hold talks with officials of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

The ostensive purpose of Landsbergis' visit is to attend the opening ceremony of an art exhibition for a Lithuanian painter in Tokyo.

Landsbergis' Japan trip follows on the heels of his trip to Germany for the signing of a bilateral agreement on mutual protection of investments.

Japan established diplomatic relations with Lithuania last October and since then Lithuanian Prime Minister Gedimanas Vagnorius has visited Tokyo twice.

Aid Official Murdered in Dominican Republic

OW0303184992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1501 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—A Japanese national was stabbed to death and his wife serously wounded by an intruder Tuesday at their residence in the Dominican Republic, the Foreign Ministry said.

Ministry officials said Shiro Odo, 45, was killed Tuesday morning local time and that his 44-year-old wife Kiyoko was in critical condition following the suspected robbery.

Odo was sent to the Carribean nation in November 1990 by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the ministry's foreign assistance arm.

His 18-month tour of duty was expected to end in May, JICA officials said.

Three JICA engineers were also shot dead by a leftist guerrilla group in Peru last July.

Aid Planned for Burmese Refugees in Bangladesh

OW0403115492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan will soon pledge relief assistance in cash or in kind for the over 100,000 Muslim refugees in Bangladesh who have fled Myanmar [Burma] alleging persecution by the military there, foreign ministry officials said Wednesday.

Officials said Japan will pledge a large package of aid after the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) concludes a report outlining the needs of the refugees from Myanmar's western Arakan Province, which will probably be released next week.

"When they make an appeal for assistance to the international community, we would consider appropriate assistance on this matter," an official said on condition of anonymity.

The Arakan Muslim refugees streaming into Bangladesh say Myanmar soldiers are killing civilians and raping women, while the military government says it is attempting to contain an armed insurgency by Muslim separatists in the predominantly Buddhist country.

Officials said Japanese diplomats in Dhaka were dispatched February 22 to 24 to the area of Cox's Bazar in southeastern Bangladesh, where most refugees are encamped, to evaluate the situation, inspect refugee camps, and consult with Bangladeshi officials and representatives of international organizations.

The Japanese Red Cross has taken the lead over the government, having donated some 9.4 million yen for relief activities in the area by the International Red Cross after the parent organization appealed to the international community for the equivalent of 300 million yen.

The European Commission last month announced emergency aid of 500,000 ecus, or about 647,000 dollars, for refugee relief efforts.

Britain on its own has contributed a further 100,000 pounds, France 500 tons of wheat, and Canada 175,000 Canadian dollars.

The UNHCR has decided to provide some 1.1 million dollars, while the U.N.-affiliated World Food Program has committed 1.9 million dollars worth of food.

Officials attributed Japan's slower response to the government's principle of waiting for an official request before giving aid. They said neither the U.N. nor the Bangladesh Government has made an official request.

One official said that before making a commitment, Japan also wanted to get "a total picture" of the situation and what scale of aid is needed to rectify it. Japan's share of the total aid rendered is likely to be relatively large, he said.

Tokyo 'Hopes To Extend' Technical Aid to Oman

OW0403054992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0507 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Wednesday reaffirmed that Japan is willing to extend as much as 15 million dollars to Oman in technical cooperation aid over the next four to five years, Foreign Ministry officials said. Officials said Watanabe made the statement of intent in a 20-minute meeting with Omani Minister of Trade and Industry Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan, who arrived in Japan Monday on a five-day official visit.

Watanabe was quoted as saying Japan hopes to extend 15 million dollars worth of technical assistance to Oman over the next four to five years if the Middle Eastern country comes up with worthy projects. Officials said the pledge was a reconfirmation of one made to Oman in October 1990 when then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu visited the Sultanate.

Oman is ineligible for other types of official Japanese aid such as government loans or grants due to its relatively high gross national product. While it is an oil-producing country, its reserves are not as vast as those of some other Arab states and Oman is seeking to diversify its economy. Japanese technical assistance to that country so far has targeted the agriculture and fisheries industries.

Officials said Maqbul noted that Japan buys 50 percent of Oman's oil, while 40 percent of his country's imports come from Japan. He called for the two countries to consolidate their close economic ties by establishing a joint bilateral committee. Watanabe said Japan would consider the proposal.

Officials said Watanabe told Maqbul he looks forward to the planned visit to Japan in the fall of Oman's Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs Fahd Bin-Mahud Al-Sa'id. Both ministers agreed they also hope to realize an early visit to Japan by Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Maqbul met Tuesday with Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe. Before departing Friday he is scheduled to visit some Japanese industrial facilities and meet with officials of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) and the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro).

Star Micronics Sets Up 4 Subsidiaries in Europe

OW0403115592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Nagoya, March 4 KYODO—Star Micronics Co. has establied four subsidiaries in Europe to market and sell its electronic printers and machine tools, company officials said Wednesday.

The Japanese electronic printer maker aims to strengthen its distribution and service network in Europe ahead of the integration of the European Community economy, they said.

The four companies were established with an overall investment amount of about 1 billion yen in Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Britain.

The company now has a total of 10 subsidiaries for production and marketing of its products in Europe, the officials said.

Toyota Chairman Opens New Australian Plant

OW0403085792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Melbourne, March 4 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. Chairman Eiji Toyoda laid the foundation stone Wednesday for Toyota Australia's new manufacturing plant in Melbourne.

Toyoda also attended two other ceremonies Wednesday, the presentation of the 500,000th engine produced at Toyota's engine manufacturing plant and the completion of the one millionth vehicle built in Australia at Toyota's Port Melbourne plant.

Speaking at the foundation stone ceremony, Toyoda said the new plant, which will begin operations in 1994, signals confidence in the future and is a major step toward making Australian industry competitive.

Robert Johnson, president of Toyota Australia, said the 420 million Australian dollar (41 billion yen) plant will produce 100,000 units a year with 30 percent destined for export.

Toyota Australia has 4,500 staff and a current production rate of 240 units per day.

Prime Minister Paul Keating, also present at Wednesday's ceremonies, said the foundation stone marked the progressive partnership between Australia and Japan.

"Our strength lies in integration with our neighbors in the Asia-Pacific, if we fail to realize the changes in the Asia-Pacific region we also fail to realize our future," he said.

Miyazawa Cancels Miyagi By-Election Visit

OW0403104592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa canceled Wednesday a trip to Miyagi Prefecture to support a ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) by-election candidate because of opposition from the party's local chapter.

His visit to help the LDP candidate contesting a seat in the House of Councillors, originally planned for Saturday, was rejected by the LDP's Miyagi Chapter due to fears of a negative reaction from voters, officials said.

The Miyazawa government's popularity has nosedived because of his alleged lack of leadership and money scandals involving present and former associates of the prime minister.

Miyazawa visited Nara Prefecture in early February to deliver a speech for an LDP candidate in another by-election for an upper house seat. An opposition candidate scored a landslide victory in the election.

The prime minister conferred with LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki and Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato to reschedule the Miyagi trip to Friday after a plenary session of the House of Representatives, LDP sources said.

But Miyagi LDP officials notified Miyazawa's office they could not secure a meeting hall for him to deliver a speech. Besides, they said, 68-year-old LDP candidate Nobuo Onodera, former speaker of the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly, was too busy.

Other candidates in the by-election are Koki Hagino, a 51-year-old employee of Tohoku Fukushi University supported by three opposition parties and the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, and Hisashi Tsujihata, 34, of the Japanese Communist Party.

Nissan Chief Attacks LDP for Control of Speech

OW0403100392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—A business leader accused the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Wednesday of trying to control freedom of speech over political donations to the party by business organizations.

Yutaka Kume, president of Japan's No. 2 automaker Nissan Motor Co. and vice president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), said at a news conference that recent remarks by some LDP leaders assailing the business community amount to denial of the fundamental principle of democracy.

Confrontation between the ruling party and the business community was triggered by a recent remark by Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), urging corporations to suspend political donations pending political reform.

Some LDP members said in response that businesses should not get involved in politics if they do not make political contributions.

The LDP, which has been in power since its founding in 1955, depends largely on financial support from the business community.

Ministry To Inspect Work Conditions at Sagawa

OW0403093992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The Transport Ministry will soon conduct an investigation on working conditions at a scandal-implicated trucking firm and its group companies, ministry officials said Wednesday.

The investigation will be conducted on the Sagawa Kyubin Group of home-delivery companies, the Tokyo-based member of which has been accused of links with political and underworld circles.

The officials said the probe will be carried out after completion of a Labor Ministry investigation that began in November on working conditions at the group's 51 locations across the nation.

The Transport Ministry imposed penalties on the group's 81 member companies in 1987 and again on 13 firms in 1989 for a lack of adequate management on working conditions for truck drivers.

The investigation will also be conducted in connection with a merger application filed by six member companies of the group to rebuild Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., accused of distributing a huge amount of cash to politicians.

The company also was alleged to have guaranteed massive loans extended by financial institutions to Inagawa-Kai, Japan's second largest underworld crime syndicate.

Sagawa To Repay Loans Guaranteed for Firms

OW0403115392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a parcel delivery company involved in a political scandal, will take financial responsibility for huge loans it guaranteed and repay 280 billion yen, informed sources said Wednesday.

The sum accounts for some 80 percent of the 344.5 billion yen in loans it had guaranteed for 37 companies and an individual, the sources said.

The repayment scheme is being worked out in negotiations between Tokyo Sagawa and financial institutions that had extended the loans based on the company's guarantees, the sources said.

Many of the loans proved uncollectable after Japan's monetary authorities tightened credit policy and put a rein on low-interest speculative money to shrink the "bubble economy" of ballooning land and share prices, the sources said.

The lenders included the nation's top commercial banks such as Sumitomo Bank, Tokai Bank, Sanwa Bank, Fuji Bank, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, and Kyowa Saitama Bank, according to documents compiled by Tokyo Sagawa itself and obtained by KYODO news service.

Sumitomo Bank loaned a total of 16.9 billion yen to Ichikawa Tourism Development Co., a golf course developer that investigators said was acting as a dummy company for Tokyo Sagawa for stock speculation, according to the documents.

The bank also provided 3 billion yen in loans to Taiheiyo Enterprise Co., a Tokyo-based real estate company capitalized at only 5 million yen, the documents say.

Tokai Bank also provided 16.8 billion yen to Glen Peak Manor Golf Club based on Tokyo Sagawa's loan guarantee, according to the documents.

The scandal, allegedly involving many Diet members, is rocking Japan's political circles, with several politicians from the ruling and opposition parties acknowledging they have received money from Tokyo Sagawa.

Tokyo Sagawa is the core company of Sagawa Kyubin Co., the nation's second largest trucking network.

Details, Number of 'Tobashi' Suits Discussed

OW0403142392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1355 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Troubles between securities houses and companies caused by the business practice of "tobashi" in which clients are compensated for securities investment losses have resulted in 235 suits nationwide since January 1991 until Tuesday this week, a Finance Ministry official said Wednesday.

Of the suits, 83 cases were filed against the "big four" brokerage firms, including Nomura Securities Co., said Nobuhiko Matsuno, director general of the ministry's Securities Bureau, at the House of Representatives Finance Committee.

Damages claimed total 31.41 billion yen, of which 20.35 billion yen was against the "big four," Matsuno said.

Matsuno declined a definite comment on the scale of the trouble, saying, "we can count the troubles that have resulted in suits...but those settled through reconciliation or mediation are not reported and so we cannot measure them."

Most of the disclosed troubles resulted from sophisticated corporate financial deals, the so-called "zaitech" fund management, he said, adding he expects many more to be disclosed from now on because of the longstanding sluggish stock market.

Matsuno said the ministry has issued instructions to securities companies to change their personnel in charge of corporate clients at certain intervals because the close relationship between the customers and personnel might lead to such troubles.

BOJ To Check 'Excessive Adjustment' Moves

OW0403040592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0248 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday the central bank will be checking excessive "adjustment" of Japan's economy, indicating a more flexible stance on monetary policy depending on the nation's business conditions.

Mieno, tesifying at the House of Representatives' Budget Committee, reaffirmed his view that the nation's economy is in an "adjustment" phase from too high a growth period to more balanced and stable growth. With respect to the current low growth of Japan's money supply, he projected the situation will continue for a while.

Japan's January money supply—cash in circulation, time and demand deposits, plus certificates of deposit—rose at a record low rate of 1.8 percent from a year earlier.

Mieno also told the committee that money rates have stabilized since the December 30 official discount rate cut, but said the central bank will keep watching the movement of lending rates.

Officials Comment on Discount Rate Cut Issue

Mieno Rules Out Imminent Cut

OW0403070292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0613 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno Wednesday ruled out the possibility of an imminent cut in the official discount rate but said the central bank will take prompt action to prevent an excessive adjustment of the domestic economy.

Testifying at the House of Representatives Budget Committee debating the fiscal 1992 budget, Mieno said the Japanese economy now is going through "an unavoidable period of adjustment." He said it is unnecessary for the BOJ to immediately lower the official discount rate—an interest rate on the central bank's loans to commercial institutions. The key interest rate now stands at an annual 4.5 percent in the wake of three reductions carried out last year.

Mieno's remark, however, was viewed as indicating the central bank will take a flexible stance on the interest rate cut, depending on economic developments in the near future. The central bank has come under mounting pressure from the ruling party and business leaders to cut the key interest rate to shore up the sagging economy.

Responding to questions by Michio Ochi, a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Mieno predicted the current slow growth of money supply will end when corporations complete adjustment of inventories.

He reiterated that effects of the interest rate cuts carried out last year are taking root.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the same committee, in response to questions by Ochi, the Japanese economy is going through "a difficult stage as a whole but, fundamentally, it has strong potential." Miyazawa expressed hope that workers will earn "a certain level" of wage hikes this spring to avoid a serious impact on personal spending.

Setsuo Umezawa, chairman of the Fair Trade Commission, meanwhile, called on the LDP to support the commission's move to raise penalties against corporations found violating the Antimonopoly Law.

Umezawa said the fair trade watchdog is studying a possibility of substantially hiking fines against such corporations, which are now set at a maximum of 5 million yen. Umezawa sought the LDP's understanding of the commission's effort to raise the level of penalties, which he said is too low.

Keidanren Chief Urges Cut

OW0403095992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Hiroshima, March 4 KYODO—The chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), Japan's most powerful business lobby, called for an early cut in the official discount rate on Wednesday.

Gaishi Hiraiwa told a press conference that calls for another cut in the rate are rising due to cooling corporate attitudes and a lackluster stock market.

Hiraiwa is in Hiroshima to attend an informal meeting with business leaders in western Japan.

Regarding the timing of the rate cut, Hiraiwa said that was up to the central bank.

LDP Demands Discount Rate Cut

OW0403092992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0911 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) demanded of a senior official of the Bank of Japan on Wednesday that the central bank cut the official discount rate, LDP sources said.

The sources said an LDP project team investigating economic trends summoned senior officials concerned with economic and trade affairs for talks on economic matters, including reduction of the key interest rate.

The group sent a request to the government earlier this month, seeking a cut in the official discount rate.

Toshihiko Fukui, one of the central bank's executive directors, told the meeting that interest rates on the money market are at an adequate level as a result of a 0.5 percentage point cut in the official discount rate December 30, the sources said.

Fukui was quoted as saying the Japanese economy will begin to pick up in the middle of this year when inventory adjustments by corporations will be completed.

He pledged that the central bank will manage the monetary policy with flexibility and mobility, the sources said.

One LDP panel member, however, disputed Fukui's view and demanded that the central bank slash the key rate by about 1 percentage point, saying interest rates have not fallen in anticipation of a discount rate cut, the sources said.

Other LDP panel members also argued that interest rates on the money market do not reflect the prevailing economic situation.

Shizuka Kamei, head of the panel, later told reporters the central bank may be forced to lower the discount rate sooner or later since it faces mounting pressure from the ruling party and business leaders.

Nagano Says Cut Rate 'Quickly'

OW0403073392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0647 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren) called Wednesday for a cut in the official discount rate to promote business recovery.

Takeshi Nagano told reporters that everything possible, including a cut in the benchmark lending rate and restraints on wage increases this spring, should be done to prevent a further economic slowdown.

Nagano was the third big-business leader to call for a cut in the key rate, following Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) and Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The rate, which the bank of Japan charges on its loans to commercial banks, stands at an annual 4.5 percent after the last half-point reduction on December 30.

Nagano urged the central bank to decide quickly to cut the rate, mentioning growing uncertainties in the business community over monetary policy.

As for wage hikes this spring, he said a 1 percentage point difference in pay raises would make a big difference for management.

Nikkeiren has said it will place more emphasis on shorter work hours than on pay raises during negotiations in the spring labor campaign, which began recently and is to peak late this month.

Nagano said the average annual working time per worker in Japan should be reduced to 1,950 hours in a few years, equivalent to the U.S. average.

Labor Minister Outlines Working-Hours Bill

OW0403060392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo on Wednesday submitted to a ministry council an outline of a bill to reduce working hours through voluntary negotiations between management and labor unions, ministry officials said. The minister's outline was presented to the Central Labor Standard Council, headed by Prof. Tadashi Hanami of Sophia University.

Setting out the state's proposals for promoting a reduction in working hours and the drawing up of similar plans by the respective industries are the two pillars of the outline, the officials said. The planned legislation would have a specified duration of five years, they added.

According to the proposed outline, the labor minister could ask business organizations to carry out the state's plan of setting the target for reduction of working hours and suggesting ways of implementing it. The government plan would be formalized by a cabinet meeting, the officials said. Business enterprises could set up committees on reducing working hours at offices and factories. The companies could then put into practice recommendations made by the committees, such as introducing flexible working hours, the officials said.

Under the outline, businesses in the same industry would jointly prepare a plan on cutting working hours and submit it for approval to the labor minister or a minister concerned with that particular industry. The proposed new bill is in line with the Labor Ministry's plan to revise the labor standards law within fiscal 1993 to cut the current 44-hour workweek designated by the law to 40 hours, the officials said.

The Labor Ministry expects the planned bill will serve to improve the industrial management environment by reducing Japan's current annual average of more than 2,000 working hours per worker to 1,800 hours. The ministry is scheduled to submit the bill to the Diet during the current Diet session which will end in June, once the council approves the outline, the officials said.

Minivehicle Sales Fall for 10th Straight Month

OW0403124792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Sales of minivehicles in February dropped 7.4 percent from a year earlier to 139,810 units, posting the 10th straight month of year-on-year decline, the Japan Minivehicles Association reported Wednesday.

The association said 72,326 passenger cars were sold in February, down 2.2 percent, compared with 67,484 commercial vehicles, down 12.4 percent.

It was the first time since January 1973 in minivehicles that sales of passenger cars topped those of commercial vehicles, the association said.

Suzuki Motor Co. ranked first among minivehicle makers with sales totaling 40,702 units, down 0.8 percent from a year earlier, followed by Daihatsu Motor Co. with 39,017 units, down 5.0 percent, and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. with 20,754, down 4.3 percent.

Two Nuclear Fuel Recyclers Apply for Merger

OW0403040692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Aomori, March 4 KYODO—Japan Nuclear Fuel Industries Corp. and Japan Nuclear Fuel Service Co., two operators of Rokkasho nuclear fuel recycling plants in Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan, on Wednesday submitted an application to merge to the science and technology agency, company officials said.

If the request is authorized, the two Tokyo-based companies are scheduled to merge on July 1 under the new name of Japan Nuclear Fuel Co., the officials said. The new firm will establish its head office in Aomori with a new capital of 120 billion yen, they said.

Kiyoshi Nozawa, who currently serves as vice president of the two companies, will be named as president of the new firm, which will be the biggest company in Aomori Prefecture, the officials said. The two companies signed a contract to merge last January in order to promote coordinated business activities.

At the Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Recycling Center, Japan Nuclear Fuel Industries was scheduled to operate Japan's first large-scale commercial uranium enrichment facility and a storage facility for low-level nuclear waste. Japan nuclear fuel service was scheduled to operate a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant.

Japan Nuclear Fuel Industries started test operations at its uranium enrichment plant last December to prepare for full-scale operations in 1992.

Tokyo's Population Posts First Gain in 4 Years

OW0403123492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Tokyo's population totaled 11,880,230 as of January 1, up 27,915 over a year before, the first rise in four years, the metropolitan government said Wednesday.

Tokyo's population had fallen after peaking in 1988 when Tokyoites numbered about 11.89 million.

The number of foreign residents in the city grew by 29,000, the officials said.

They said the exodus from Shinjuku, Shibuya, and Minato wards in central Tokyo continued as about 3,600 to 6,000 people moved out of each ward due to growing numbers of office buildings and high land prices.

Mongolia

MPRP Converts to 'Democratic' Organization

OW2902042892 Beijing XINHUA in English 0220 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 29 (XINHUA)—The 21st Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) closed here this morning with the conversion of the former Communist Party into a national and democratic organization.

The congress discussed and approved the MPRP's program, constitution and ideological principles.

The Doctrine of the Mean, the Golden Principle of the Confucian School, will replace socialism and communism as the guiding ideology of the ruling party.

The MPRP decided not to change its name, but set as its new target the establishment of a democratic society.

The congress, which opened on Wednesday, heard reports presented by the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission.

A Central Committee of 147 members was elected, with Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon re-elected its chairman.

Democratic Party Withdraws From Government

OW0203144792 Beijing XINHUA in English 1435 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 2 (XINHUA)—Mongolian Democratic Party Chairman Bat Uul said today his party had decided to withdraw from the coalition government it formed with the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

He told a press conference here his party had decided to recall Assistant Premier Dambiyn Dorligjab, the only member of his party serving in the government.

Bat Uul said his party had informed the Small Hural (parliament) of its decision.

The ruling Mongolian People's Party had failed to take effective measures to solve the country's grave economic crisis, he said.

Seven members of his party in the Small Hural were forming a parliamentary committee to intensify the party's influence, he added.

Government Decides To Deregulate Food Prices

OW0203195292 Beijing XINHUA in English 1610 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 2 (XINHUA)—The Mongolian Government has decided to relax the prices of food and daily necessities after holding them steadfast for some 30-odd years.

Bread and flour were exempt from the price freeing which took effect Sunday.

From now on, the prices of rationed goods will have maximum limits.

Observers said that in a free market, the prices for meat, rice, sugar, tea and other foods would jump by between 100 and 300 percent.

Finance Minister Ayursaniyn Badzarhuu said the existing price system was fixed in 1959.

It had failed to reflect market supply and demand for a long time, he said.

His country had failed to halt 1991's economic decline, he added.

Social production and national income had both dropped by 20 percent, leaving such measures inevitable, he said.

North Korea

Delegation Says South 'Unjust' on Nuclear Issue

SK0303155292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The third round of contacts between North and South delegates to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee was held in the South side's area of Panmunjom on 3 March. Participating in the contact were the two delegates to the North-South high level talks and suite members from each side. The contact was a closed-door session.

After the contact was over, our side's delegates held a news conference and informed the reporters of the status of the contact. They said that the South side spoke first in today's contact. They noted that the South side improperly placed blame on us, stating that we are not abiding by our international duty and that we are adding to suspicions.

Our delegates said that the South side went so far as to reject our realistic and reasonable draft of agreement and presented a draft of agreement repeating its old, unjust position, saying that there is no need to adopt the agreement for the implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, that the issue of an international guarantee for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is irrelevant to the implementation of the joint declaration, and that nuclear inspection should be done on the principle of give and take.

Our delegates said in response to this that it is very improper for the South side to place blame on us, the other dialogue partner, and that this reveals the South side's lack of intention to implement the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Our delegates said that, as for the obligation stipulated in the international treaty, we already signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on 30 January and that we not only made it clear that we will accept nuclear inspection after the Supreme People's Assembly deliberations, but reminded the South side that many countries welcomed our position at the February IAEA Board of Governors meeting.

Our delegates said that they logically exposed the unjust South side, which, despite this, placed blame on us and made a fuss to instigate other countries. They said that it is the South side that is suspicious. They questioned why the owner, the one who brought nuclear weapons into South Korea, deployed them there, and has the right to use them, remains silent, although the highest person in authority in South Korea announced the absence of nuclear weapons.

Our delegates said that they, however, did not raise this issue in the discussion from the standpoint of respecting the other dialogue partner.

Our delegates said that they stated that jointly preventing the nuclear threat from outside the Korean peninsula and taking measures to receive an appropriate international guarantee for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is the fundamental demand to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. This will ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and that for the South side to oppose this means that it intends to threaten us with nuclear weapons in cooperation with another country.

Our delegates said that they stressed that our people wish to forever eliminate the nuclear threat ultimately at its source.

Our delegates said that they refuted the South side for opposing the adoption of the agreement on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and that they made it clear that adopting the agreement is essential for implementating the joint declaration. They said that the joint declaration only presents a fundamental demand and a direction and objective for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and that it is the general principle and procedure to establish specific implementing measures, so as to put it into practice.

Our delegates said that the two sides have already agreed, in the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange, to adopt henceforth supplementary agreements at appropriate units of the joint subcommittees. They said that they exposed that for the South side to reject adopting the agreement for the implementation of joint declaration means that it lacks the will to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and that it is doing nothing less than opposing the verification of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the nuclear inspection itself.

Our delegates said that they stated their suspicions that the South side is so persistently unwilling to adopt the agreement on the implementation of the denuclearization declaration probably because it wants to avoid the inspection of the U.S. forces' nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea.

Our delegates refuted the unjustness of the South side's claim that trial inspection be conducted. They said that they claimed that an inspection of all the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea, not a trial inspection of one or two targets, be conducted to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and to completely remove the nuclear danger.

Referring to the South side's claim that an agreement on regulations on procedures and method of a nuclear inspection should be accepted within one month after the first meeting of a Joint Nuclear Control Committee, our delegates said that it is our consistent claim to form a Joint Nuclear Control Committee, decide on inspection targets, and rapidly regulate inspection procedures and methods.

Our delegates said that they clearly revealed that the date, procedure, method, and targets of nuclear inspection are not issues that should be negotiated and decided at delegates contacts, but should be discussed at a Joint Nuclear Control Committee, which will be formed.

Our delegates said they refuted the South side, because, even though it said it generally accepted our draft agreement, the South side did not completely consider the issue of inspecting the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases as something to be negotiated in the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and even ignored it. Our delegates said that this shows the South side creating artificial stumbling blocks to forming and operating a Joint Nuclear Control Committee. They exposed that this is aimed at avoiding inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

Our delegates said that they began to arrange the texts of the documents of the agreement on forming and operating a North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee. They said that the South side, however, while again talking about issues that should be discussed in the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, made rude remarks at random, such as concerns about someone else's external relations. As for this, our side urged the South side not to irritate us, adding that they clearly noted that the basic idea of the DPRK's foreign policy is independence, friendship, and peace.

Our delegates said that we are concerned about the South side's sycophantic foreign policy, which is devoid of national independence. They said that they urged the South side to change its attitude of leading a life by flattering others.

Our delegates said that the South tries to drag out or frustrate the formation and operation of a Joint Nuclear Control Committee by creating a stumbling block to discussing the issue of forming and operating a Joint Nuclear Control Committee; that it tries to slough its responsibility onto us; that it tries to stir up international opinion; that it tries to resort to trickery to have someone else put pressure on us. They said that they strongly urged the South side to sincerely come out to the both sides' contacts to implement the joint declaration.

Our delegates said that the South side, however, resorted to unpredictable tactics, such as when we accepted its provisions and arranged the texts of the documents of agreement, the South side again revised its provisions and made new proposals, thus preventing an agreement at all.

Our side said that owing to the South side's insincere attitude and stance, no provisions can be concluded.

In conclusion, our delegates warned that the South side's authorities said it will take a guarded position in the formation of subcommittees and in the adoption of supplementary agreements by linking the nuclear issue with the North-South agreement. They said to the South side that this means that the South side has nothing to do with holding talks on forming the subcommittees and the North- South high-level talks in May.

Our delegates said that in connection with this, the South side said that this reflects the authorities' stance and made various excuses that the South Korean media made reports about this at random.

It is agreed to hold the next contact at Tongilgak, our side's area, on 4 March.

Nuclear Linkage 'Betrayal' of Accord

SK0403101692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Betrayal to the Implementation of the Agreement"]

[Text] These days the South Korean persons in authority are making a great fuss against us over the nuclear inspection issue. According to the Christian Broadcasting System in Seoul, the South Korean administration has decided to withold the implementation of follow-up measures to the overall agreements until prospects for resolving the nuclear issues improve. In other words, the rascals will delay the implementation of follow-up measures to the agreements until we show sincerity in resolving the nuclear issue. Furthermore, a South Korean person in authority said that the South has been decided to make the nuclear issue a precondition for progress in North-South relations and babbled that if we fail to show sincerity in resolving the nuclear issue, this will negatively affect the activities of other subcommittees. This reveals their clear, vile intention not to fulfill the North-South agreements by finding groundless faults with us. Also, this not only constitutes a vicious betrayal to the agreement that they also pledged to implement, but is also an open challenge to the entire nation's desire for the country's reunification.

It is readily apparent to everyone that the nuclear issue cannot be a precondition for implementing the North-South agreement. The North-South agreement was adopted and effectuated through negotiations between the North and the South. It reflects the aspirations and desires of all fellow countrymen, who call for the country's peace and peaceful reunification. The content of the agreement makes no mention of the nuclear issue. Furthermore, the North and the South did not agree on any preconditions for implementing the agreement. Therefore, all we have to do with the agreement is to fulfill it in conformity with the people's aspiration for reunification in the North and the South. There can be no conditions whatsoever. Furthermore, the nuclear inspection issue is one that we and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] should resolve independently; there is no justification whatsoever for the South Korean persons in authority to intervene in it.

As has already been made public, now that conditions for the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula to be fairly and completely resolved have emerged, we have signed the nuclear safeguards accord pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on 30 January. We also made it clear that we will ratify it at the earliest possible date and receive an inspection according to the procedures agreed upon with the IAEA.

At an 18 February meeting of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] Standing Committee we reviewed the nuclear safeguards accord concluded between the government of the Republic and the IAEA and referred it to the SPA for deliberation. After the accord's deliberation at a meeting, we will send to the IAEA written notification concerning its effectuation as required and push ahead with the relevant work for an inspection.

Therefore, the South side should mind its own business and not meddle. We will do what we decide to do and will not do what we decide not to do. We never talk idly.

As for the simultaneous inspection issue, when the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee, which is now the subject of negotiations between the North and the South, is formed, the issues on procedures and methods will be discussed in detail and resolved accordingly.

The nuclear issue in our country stemmed from the fact that the U.S. imperialists turned South Korea into an advance nuclear base, the largest in the Far East, by deploying nuclear weapons there and has adhered to nuclear war maneuvers for a northward invasion. Nevertheless, the South Korean persons in authority, without a single word about this, have preposterously slandered us, who possess no nuclear weapons and who have neither the intent to develop them nor the capability to produce them. This is preposterous and further reveals the rascals' treacherous nature of renouncing themselves as Koreans.

In particular, the South Korean persons in authority have been slandering us, the fellow countrymen, while refusing to accept our proposal, which urges common North-South efforts in coping with Japan's recent moves for nuclear armament. This cannot be overlooked. The South Korean persons in authority, who have so frantically clamored about the nonexistent nuclear threat before the fellow countrymen, have pretended not to perceive Japan's nuclear threat, over which the world worries, but also, which is still worse, have inspired Japan to consider nuclear inspection of the North as a precondition for normalizing Korean-Japanese relations. This is something over which all the Koreans should be indignant.

The aim of the commotion that the South Korean persons in authority are making over the nuclear issue is clear. The rascals are attempting to drive a wedge against the trend toward reunification by refusing the North-South agreements themselves and, thus, are only aggravating confrontation and tension. They also are blocking reunification by reverting the situation back to what it was before the agreement was adopted.

The South Korean persons in authority are trying to create artificial obstacles in fulfilling the agreement while provoking us. However, they cannot block the nation's desire for national reunification with anything. The South Korean persons in authority should clearly realize that if they tear up the North-South agreement again, as the former dictators in the 1970's turned the 4 July joint communique into waste paper, they will face the stern justice of the entire nation.

The South Korean persons in authority should immediately stop making a fuss over our nonexistent nuclear development and join us in implementing the North-South agreement. The faithful implementation of the North-South agreement will be conducive even to the South Korean persons in authority.

South's Stance on Inspection Criticized

SK0403060092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 4 Mar 92

["Grave Situation Which Cannot Be Overlooked"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities at "the working-level coordination meeting of a session of ministers concerned with reunification" on February 29 brought forward again the fictitious "problem of North's nuclear development" and adopted the "policy" of linking it with the "follow-up measures for the implementation of the agreement" and decided to "put off the implementation of the follow-up measures as a whole till the North shows sincerity over the nuclear problem".

A high-ranking official of the South Korean "Government" stated that the "nuclear problem was defined as a precondition for the progress of the South-North relations" and the "nuclear problem will influence the activities of other subcommittees".

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN brands this as a provocative act wantonly violating the provisions of the historical North-South agreement and getting on our nerves and a grave state of affairs which can never be overlooked.

The news analyst says:

The South Korean authorities reportedly defined the "nuclear problem" as a "precondition" for the progress of the North-South relations. But the two sides have never discussed the nuclear problem as a precondition for the implementation of the agreement and such discussion is unthinkable.

We signed the nuclear safeguards accord (NSA) on January 30 under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, with our principled demands regarding the problem of nuclear inspection satisfied. On February 18, we examined the NSA at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and decided to lay it before the third session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly for its deliberation. When the agreement is ratified, we shall notify the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its effectuation according to the provisions of the NSA and receive nuclear inspection without delay in accordance with the working procedures to be agreed upon.

The South Korean authorities have no justification to meddle in the problem of nuclear inspection which is now in progress between us and the IAEA.

The problem of "simultaneous inspection of the South and the North" proposed by the South Korean authorities will be solved without difficulty when the North-South nuclear control joint committee is formed and operated and the matters of procedures and methods are discussed there. We can hardly understand why the South Korean authorities are bringing forward this problem and noisily crying over it.

In making such remarks even before the ink of the signatures on the inter-Korean agreement and the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is dry, the South Korean authorities seek to throw a wet blanket over the rapidly growing sentiments for reunification in South Korea and deliberatedly neglect the implementation of the agreed documents by sidetracting the situation.

It seems evident that they intend to reverse the agreed documents altogether after dragging on the time and avoiding their implementation by deliberately aggravating tensions of the country and continuously pursuing the confrontation policy in face of the ever-growing demand for the termination of the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea, the pullout of the U.S. troops and the abolition of anti-national, anti-reunification laws including the "National Security Law" which stand in the way of the implementation of the North-South agreement and joint declaration and for the release of the visitors to the North and the pro-reunification patriotic figures.

If the South Korean authorities continue to violate the provisions of the North-South agreement and joint declaration, they will be held fully responsible for the grave consequences arising therefrom.

No Tae-u Remarks to Military Graduates Criticized

SK0403050892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 4 Mar 92

["Deliberate Incitement of Confrontation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—The South Korean chief executive turned up at a "graduation ceremony of the Military Academy" on March 2 and said "a possible military adventure taking advantage of the trend of the time towards reconciliation and cooperation should be guarded against" and so "the army must secure a high degree of combat power and keep itself ready to promptly and effectively counter any threat".

Branding his provocative utterances as a deliberate incitement of North-South confrontation and war fever, a MINJU CHOSON analyst today says:

After the agreement in which the North and the South promised nonaggression was made public, the South Korean chief executive himself incited North-South confrontation and war fever. This apparently goes against the spirit of the agreement and has naturally caused apprehensions and resentment at home and abroad.

The South Korean authorities have openly uttered words inciting North-South confrontation even after they signed the inter-Korean agreement. This is a double-dealing act which can never be tolerated.

This tells that there is no change in the South Korean authorities' attitude toward North-South confrontation and war still now when the agreement has come into effect.

What the South Korean chief executive said recently is nothing but a product of his invariable stance of confrontation.

The South Korean authorities must take the stand of reconciliation, unity and reunification in the spirit of the inter- Korean agreement, living up to the expectation of the people, and renounce the anachronistic policy of confrontation and war.

U.S.-ROK 'Joint Strike Exercises' Reported

SK0403050592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets Monday staged large-scale ground joint strike exercises aimed at a surprise attack on targets in strategic depths of the northern half of Korea in the skies above Oeyon and Tokjok Islands and Yoju, according to military sources.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists sent a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane to the sky above the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) for aerial photographing and espionage on targets in strategic depths of the northern half of the country.

In a separate action, the South Korean war-thirsty elements held frantic ground and aerial war exercises in areas adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone of the MDL.

Warplanes mobilised in war exercises in South Korea against the northern half of the country on March 2 alone totaled more than 600.

U.S. Urged To Withdraw Foreign-Based Forces

SK0403103892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 4 Mar 92

["Presence of U.S. Forces Overseas Cannot Be Justified"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—If the United States really want peace and detente, it must withdraw without delay its aggressor troops stationed in foreign countries, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

Loudmouthed as they are about the "end of the cold war," the United States is trying to avoid its troop pullout from foreign countries under such pretext as "protection of security," the article says, and goes on:

Originally, the United States stationed its troops in Europe on the plea of "protecting" it from the other "superpower." Now the confrontational structure collapsed and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation was dissolved in Europe and the Soviet Union broke up. The armed forces of the former Soviet Union stationed in East European countries have been withdrawn. Under such conditions there is no need for the United States to keep its forces in Europe any longer if they were intended to "protect security" of its allies.

It is an absolute baloney that the U.S. forces should remain in Europe to "protect security" of its allies.

The United States is also attempting shamelessly to maintain its forces in the Asia-Pacific region.

Especially, it is trying to justify its occupation of South Korea with the clumsy excuse that "South Korean people "want" it and there is a "threat of the development of nuclear weapons" by the North and that the situation in Asia is "uncertain".

Such pretexts vividly reveal the shameful and aggressive ambition of the United States that has gone to the extremes.

The U.S. talk about "request" and the like is a mockery of the South Korean people.

At present, the South Korean people are strongly demanding the withdrawal of U.S. forces, the chief obstacle to independence, democracy and reunification.

The "threat of the development of nuclear weapons" is a false, aggressive propaganda.

We have signed the nuclear safeguards accord and decided to accept an inspection at a time agreed upon with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Nevertheless, the U.S. ruling quarters are persistently raising a hue and cry over the "threat of the development of nuclear weapons by the North" and "uncertainty of the situation." This is a far-fetched argument.

The fundamental problem in maintaining peace in Korea and the rest of Asia at present is to get the U.S. troops out of South Korea.

The U.S. imperialist aggression forces' occupation of South Korea should not be prolonged any longer because it is totally illegal and anachronistic either in view of the publicly recognized principles of international law or in view of the resolution of the U.N. General Assembly and the trend of the present times.

Businessman, Family Defect From South

SK0403104092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—Cho Won-taek, 40, who had been engaged in private business in Pusan, South Korea, has come over to the northern half of the country together with his mother Chon Mak-im, 62, wife Kim Mi-chon, 33, daughter Cho Hye-yong, 11, and son Cho Tok-chi, 9.

Born in Yongam County, South Cholla Province, Cho Won-taek graduated from the agricultural management course of the Agricultural College of Chonnam National University, studied at Shinju School of Japanese Studies in Tokyo for three years from 1983 and did private business between South Korea and Japan.

His wife graduated from a high school and worked as a nurse at private hospitals in Masan and Pusan before joining her husband in private business.

Explaining the motive of his defection, Cho Won-taek said: During our business in Japan, we learned that the North is an ideal society where all people are equally well off.

I made up my mind to come over to the North and made preparations for some years, he said, adding that at last he took an opportunity of going abroad to succeed in coming over to the North.

Light Industrial Plants Increase Production

SK0403023992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Light industrial plants in various regions are struggling vigorously to increase people's consumer goods and their production. In hearty response to the great leader's New Year speech this year, workers, technicians, and Three Revolutions Team members have produced more fabrics, knits, shoes, daily necessities, and other consumer goods than last year by turning up the flames of the light industrial revolution. In particular, plants and work teams that were new, renovated, or expanded on the meaningful festival day of February have regularized production on a high level. Thus, they are producing more quality people's consumer goods.

Textile plants in various regions are introducing modern and high-speed equipment and vigorously conducting a popular technological renovation movement and thus increasing fabric production.

Pyongyang General Textile Plant workers, technicians, and Three Revolutions Team members have a sense of responsibility and take pride in working at a site that has become the country's reliable fabric production base. As a result of the party's wise leadership and great favors, they increased the operational rates of modern equipment and facilities and introduced advanced work methods. In this way, they are producing many quality clothes.

Sariwon Taesong Textile Plant has strengthened socialist competition and renovated technology to increase production. Hwangju Textile Plant began operating recently. Equipped with modern facilities, it can produce much more than 10 million meters of fabric a year. It is continuously increasing production by organizing the work well.

The Korea Silk Company silk mills have organized production, technological assistance work, and material supply work well. They have done their work well since the first month of this year, and they increased production to 1.3 times over that of last year's corresponding period. The Yongbyon silk mill, which is planning to fulfill the production goals of the first half of this year by mid-April, has produced hundreds of thousands of meters more of various kinds of silk products. Pyongyang and Songsan silk mills are daily overfulfilling their daily silk thread production goals by managing equipment and technology well. Plants under the Pyongyang General Textile Bureau and clothing factories in other places have improved the quality of clothes manufacturing, thus producing many suits that fit workers, students, and children well.

Shoe factories in various places are producing pretty, quality shoes. Pyongyang Vinyl Chloride Shoe Factory is taking the lead in production. This plant's injection molding shop, which was newly operational as a result of the party's favors, is overfulfilling its daily goals by over 50 percent by operating its equipment at full capacity. Having the honor of receiving [words indistinct] victory banners from the party Central Committee, the Central People's Committee, and the Administration Council on many occasions for fulfilling each year's plans, Nampo Veterans Shoe Plant is waging a struggle to produce more shoes this year.

With a resolve to display more highly the superiority of the socialism of our own style by thoroughly carrying out the light industrial revolution, workers and technicians charged with various other consumer goods are also vigorously marching amid the flames of the popular reform movement.

Chongnyon Urges Japan To Revise Registration Law

SK0403052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—The delegates of the headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) including Kim Ki-chol, director of the social affairs department of Chongnyon, recently called at the Ministry of Justice of Japan and urged it to revise the "foreigners registration law" in connection with the fact that the Japanese authorities submitted to the Diet a "bill on the partial amendment of the foreigners registration law," the CHOSON SINBO reported.

The delegates demanded that the Japanese authorities stop forcing the Koreans in Japan to permanently carry the "registration cards", revise the rules of punishment, abrogate the fingerprinting system and return the already collected fingerprints and revise the registration system.

They strongly demanded that the Japanese authorities guarantee the human rights of Koreans in Japan in accordance with the idea of international law and the spirit of Japanese law, taking into consideration the historical peculiarities of the Koreans in Japan.

Lawyers Association Berates Japan for War Crimes

SK0203105392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 2 Mar 92

["Japan Must Properly Liquidate her Crime-Woven Past. Memorandum of KDLA"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government must properly liquidate her crime-woven past by honestly apologizing for and repenting of the untold sufferings and losses inflicted upon the Korean and other Asian nations in the past and making due compensations for them. This is the way for Japan to completely do away with the last postwar problems and it is in accord with the desire of the Korean and Japanese peoples to make a new history of good neighbourly relations of friendship and with the expectations of the peoples in this region who aspire after peace and prosperity of Asia.

So says a memorandum of the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association published on March 1.

It brands the Japanese authorities' unjustifiable attitude in refusing to admit, apologize and compensate for the past crimes as a violation of international law, international usage and human ethics and cites concrete data to roundly expose Japan's past crimes before the world's conscience.

Although one year has passed since the DPRK-Japan intergovernmental talks for the normalization of diplomatic relations began, the DPRK-Japan relations remain as they were, far from being improved, the memorandum says.

It notes that the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan is, in essence, a matter of properly liquidating the past full of crimes forced upon the Korean people by Japanese imperialism and, on this basis, establishing good neighbourly relations of friendship between the two countries.

The Japanese authorities, however, are unwilling to sincerely repent of the untold misfortunes, sufferings, human and material damages imposed upon the Korean people in the past and make due compensations for them and are instead trying in vain to conceal and prettify the past crimes with a sinister intention, it says, adding:

Such unjustifiable stand and attitude of the Japanese authorities entirely run counter to the desire of the Korean and Japanese peoples and other Asians to put a period to the abnormal relations between the two countries and make a new history of good neighbourliness and friendship and thereby contribute to building a peaceful and stabilized Asia, a prosperous Asia.

The first part of the memorandum cites historical data exposing the shocking crimes committed by Japanese imperialism in the past as follows:

The Japanese imperialists occupied Korea by force of arms and annexed her illegally.

They faked up the "Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty" at the point of the bayonet in August 1910 to "legitimize" their brigandish aggressive acts and declared the "annexation" of Korea as a colony to the world.

For 36 years since their total occupation of Korea they left no stone unturned in a bid to enslave the Korean people, suppressing and murdering them, and thus inflicted immeasurable disasters, sufferings and misfortunes upon our people.

The Japanese imperialists ruthlessly suppressed the March First uprising in 1919, murdering in cold blood nearly 8,000 defenceless Koreans who shouted for independence. And they committed an unheard-of act of massacring tens of thousands of guiltless Koreans in the "Jiandao punitive operation" of 1920.

In the June 10 independence movement, the general strike of harbour workers in Wonsan, the Kwangju student incident and other movements of workers, peasants and students in the 1920s the Japanese Imperialist Army and police arrested them indiscriminately and employed mediaeval methods of torture to murder and cripple them.

In the 1930s, the Japanese imperialists ran wild in their attempts to destroy the anti-Japanese armed struggle of the Korean people, crying that it was "a cancer of oriental peace." The innocent Koreans who were murdered in the "punitive operations in east Manchuria" in the autumn of 1931 and in the spring of 1932 numbered tens of thousands.

Their terrorist repressive policy against the Korean people reached its climax during their continental war of aggression, especially the Pacific war.

During the Pacific war they robbed Korea of her human and material resources, lock, stock and barrel, to meet the needs of their war of aggression.

The young and middle-aged Koreans whom they forcibly took to Japan, China, south regions, Sakhalin and other areas as soldiers, army civilian employees, workforce and "volunteers corps" (comfort girls) numbered several million.

The Japanese imperialists imposed all manner of national humiliation and maltreatment upon the Koreans overseas, too, treated them like slaves and murdered them.

At the time of the great earthquake in Kanto district on September 1, 1923, the Japanese Army and police and terrorist groups committed beastly acts of slaughtering Koreans at random by all means and methods, irrespective of sex and age.

The Japanese imperialists forcibly drafted hundreds of thousands of young and middle-aged Koreans as soldiers and workers for the army, driving them into death as bullet-shields on battlefields.

The most despicable and shuddering of the atrocious crimes the Japanese imperialists committed against the Korean people is that they reduced 200,000 innocent Korean women as sex slaves for the socalled "Imperial Army." The innocent Korean women, unable to endure shameful and humiliating atrocities of Japanese imperialists, killed themselves, or died miserable death, infected with venereal diseases or consumption in the torturous sex service.

The number of the Korean deaths during the Japanese imperialist colonial rule exceeds two million and, when those who became crippled, or suffered in prison, and those who narrowly escaped death after being taken away or drafted into the army are put together, the number of sufferers under the Japanese imperialist rule run into several million.

In the whole period of their occupation of Korea the Japanese imperialists unlimitedly plundered our country of its abundant resources, adding to the untold sufferings and misfortunes of the Korean people.

In the 1910-18 period they requisitioned the land which was then basic means of production to the Korean people and robbed and turned the woodland into a "Japanese state property."

They took away several dozen million tons of food grain, industrial crops including insam (ginseng) and tobacco and other agricultural and livestock products and forest resources in large quantities.

Even according to doctored data published by Japanese imperialism, quantities of iron ores, steel, lead, zinc, magnesite and other munitions resources and more than 363 tons of gold were taken to Japan during the whole period of their occupation.

The additional amount of money they wrested from the Korean people in cash by all heinous methods such as public bonds, forced sales, forced savings and usury, goes far beyond 10,000 million yen in the then Japanese currency.

The Japanese imperialists destroyed and took away all the valuable cultural heritages of our nation.

They illegally dug up a royal tomb of the Koryo Dynasty in Kaesong and many other tombs of kings to plunder world-famous Koryo porcelain and treasures. They took away at random national treasures including tens of thousands of volumes of books such as "True Records of the Ly Dynasty" composed of more than 1,800 volumes and fine art pieces and industrial art objects.

Indeed, the past crimes of the Japanese imperialists in inflicting disasters and sufferings upon the Korean and other Asian peoples were unheard-of crimes which cannot be blotted out any time.

The second part of the memorandum cites materials exposing that Japan refuses to sincerely repent of and compensate for its past full of crimes.

The memorandum says:

It is an unavoidable historical responsibility for the Japanese Government to apologize to the Korean people and make full compensations for the past. But, it denies, justifies and beautifies the hard historical facts.

Still now, the Japanese Government, describing the military occupation of Korea by Japan and her brutal colonial rule over Korea as a "legal" process, contends in a far-fetched manner that the enormous human and material losses inflicted upon the Korean people were based on the then Japanese "law in force" and "legality" and and what Japan did against Korea in the past must be liquidated in the form of "property claim", in a futile attempt to avoid at any cost its obligation to compensate.

The Japanese Government is evading even compensation for the hideous crimes surrounding "comfort girls for the army" committed by the Japanese "Imperial Army" the whole picture of which has been brought to light, although it is uttering words of apology.

Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa in his speech at the "National Assembly" during his visit to South Korea in January 1992 made "apology" for the case of the "comfort girls for the army" but he did not utter a word about compensation, speaking in an evasive way that "the resolution not to repeat such mistakes any more should be fostered between the peoples, notably between the youths and children of the two countries."

Unbiased public opinion of the world is strongly urging compensation for the damages, indignant at such behaviour of the Japanese Government.

Japanese writer Toshiko Yamazaki said:

"Among many armies in the world only the former Japanese Army took 'comfort girls' with it. This is a crime committed by the state of Japan. The government must compensate for it".

Lawyer Kenichi Takaki, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Executive Committee of the Post-War International Forum, had this to say:

"The contradictory stand of 'apology yes and compensation no' will never go down with the international community. In this sense, the three-party declaration recognising the obligation of apology and compensation made during the visit to North Korea by former Deputy Prime Minister Kanemaru can be highly estimated. Accordingly, a debate on compensation must be made formally at the Japan-DPRK negotiation on the normalisation of diplomatic relations, apart from the matters of reparation and property claim".

The November, 1991, issue of the Japanese magazine SEKAI wrote:

"If an end is to be put to the abnormal Korean policy, a reflection on the colonial domination must be expressed by actual deed, not in word."

The memorandum cites materials showing that other Asian countries upon which Japan imposed damages in the past are also denouncing and demanding compensation for Japan's crimes and that the Korean and other Asian peoples are expressing deep apprehensions over the fact that Japan, denying the past history, is running headlong toward her conversion into "a political power" and "a military power".

The Korean Democratic Lawyers Association considers that it is a ridiculous and dangerous act for Japan to seek to be "a political power" and "a military power", overreaching herself, while failing to clear herself from the charge of an "enemy state" brought against her by the international community in the course of the Second World War or to clinch the post-war problems up to date when nearly half a century has passed since the war ended and that such deeds of Japan will get no trust and support of the world people, especially, of the Asian people including the Korean nation, declares the memorandum.

Editorials Commemorate 1 Mar Uprising Anniversary

SK0103094392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0847 GMT 1 Mar 92

["Papers Call for United Efforts of Whole Nation for Peace and Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 1 (KCNA)—The whole nation should unite efforts and open up a road to peace and reunification, stress papers here today in editorials dedicated to the 73rd anniversary of the March First popular uprising.

The NODONG SINMUN editorial says:

The March First popular uprising was a nationwide anti-Japanese resistance to retake the territory of the country from Japan and restore the sovereignty of the nation.

The uprising which expanded instantly to all parts of the country demonstrated the strong will and stamina of the nation to restore the lost dignity and sovereignty of the nation by valiantly fighting in the teeth of the brutal suppression by the Japanese imperialist army and police. And it shook the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists to its very foundation and had a great inspiring effect on the development of the worldwide national liberation movement.

The South Korean people are still now in a miserable lot as colonial slaves of the U.S. imperialists, though nearly half a century has passed since they were freed from the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists.

Even today when the North and the South confirmed reconciliation and nonaggression and effectuated a joint declaration on denuclearisation, the U.S. imperialists are persisting in their "two Koreas" plot and executing their aggressive Korean policy more zealously, not abandoning their wild design to invade the northern half of Korea with South Korea as the forward military base and, furthermore, dominate Asia and the world.

The division of Korea was forced by the outside forces and the struggle of Korean people for the reunification of the country is precisely a struggle to put an end to the domination by outside forces and achieve national independence.

If they want to contribute to the reunification of the country, all the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas must strictly reject the idea of dependence upon the outside forces and take the stand of national independence and rely upon the independent forces of the nation, not upon the outside forces who are responsible for the division of the country.

The driving force of national reunification is the entire Korean people and the might of the driving force is nothing but the might of unity.

All the Koreans should unite in the spirit of patriotism and national independence, irrespective of their past.

If they are to achieve national reunification and to establish the independence of the nation, they should pay primary attention to settling the question of peace and take an effective measure to ensure peace.

Since the North and the South agreed upon nonaggression, they must stop the arms race and realise disarmament so as to provide a reliable guarantee for nonaggression. And the U.S. troops and military bases must be withdrawn from South Korea and the nuclear problem be resolved to create a precondition for a peaceful reunification.

The South Korean authorities must faithfully implement the North-South agreement from the stand of national independence, freed from the idea of dependence upon the outside forces.

All the Koreans must more daringly struggle to reunify the country through confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, frustrating every move of the splittists at home and abroad to perpetuate the division of the nation.

A MINJU CHOSON editorial stresses that all the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas must pool their will and strength, placing the common interests of the nation above anything else, and wage a nationwide struggle to put into practice the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo which is run through with the three principles of national reunification and is in accord with the spirit of the North-South agreement.

Comparison of Foreign Ministry IAEA Statement

CM0403120092

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 2100 GMT on 2 March carries a six-minute report on an interview with DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman by a KCNA reporter concerning the February meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

The report has been compared with the KCNA version published in the 2 March East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 16, column two, under the headline "Spokesman: U.S. Obstructing Nuclear Inspection", revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, only sentence make read ...Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). [new paragraph]

The February meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAEA was held in Vienna, Austria, from 24 to 26 February. At the meeting, our country's delegation spoke on the dynamic steps and sincere efforts of the government of our Republic to faithfully fulfill the mission according to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and made clear our basic position on nuclear safeguards accord ratification. Our delegation said that we signed the safeguards accord since our basic demand concerning nuclear inspection was realized. The 16th session of the Ninth Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] held on 18 February discussed the safeguards accord signed between us and the IAEA and decided to submit it to the third meeting of the Ninth SPA for deliberation. Our delegation stressed that when this accord is deliberated and ratified accordingly, we will immediately take the working-level steps to accept the nuclear inspection by the IAEA.

At the meeting, an overwhelming majority of the countries warmly welcomed our independent and progressive plan. Even the countries which doubted our steps pertaining to the nuclear issue and which made unjust remarks in interfering in our domestic affairs expressed understanding and consent to our nuclear safeguards accord ratification procedure. This clearly shows that the position consistently maintained by us on implementing the nuclear safeguards accord is very just and that the dynamic plans we put forward in connection with the ratification procedure of the safeguards accord are recognized internationally as established facts.

At a time... (inserting new paragraph and providing variant wording of second paragraph of KCNA item)

Paragraph seven, only sentence make read ...and control themselves. [new paragraph]

Each nation has its own procedure for ratifying and approving the signed treaties. This is an issue that involves sovereignty. We also have concrete procedures and regulations pertaining to the ratification and approval of concluded treaties.

We make it... (inserting additional paragraph)

Paragraph ten, last sentence make read ...the Korean Peninsula." [new paragraph]

The South Korean authorities should clearly realize that their act will only lay grave obstacles to implementing the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

We will never... (inserting additional paragraph)

South Korea

Lilley Arrives To Discuss Nuclear, Other Issues

SK0403034792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs James Lilley arrived in Seoul Wednesday to discuss North Korea's nuclear development plans and South Korean-U.S. security cooperation with government officials.

Lilley will hold talks with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang to work out joint measures aimed at stopping North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. They will also discuss problems related to security arrangements in Northeast Asia.

Lilley is expected to stress that North Korea's development of nuclear weapons will pose a grave threat to peace in Northeast Asia and to urge Pyongyang to accept outside inspection of its nuclear facilities at an early date.

He will reaffirm the U.S. position that it will not withdraw its troops from South Korea from 1993 as planned as long as the North Korean nuclear issue is unsolved, according to Korean officials.

Official Views U.S. Stance at Financial Talks

SK0403092592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The United States has retreated a little from its threat to remove South Korea from the list of countries receiving most-favored-nation treatment in the field of finance, a Finance Ministry official said Wednesday.

Kim Chang-nok, chief of the ministry's International Financing Section, told reporters that he had confirmed the U.S. position during a meeting with American officials at the Uruguay Round negotiations on the financial market in Geneva Feb. 24-28.

The United States has been threatening to disqualify Korea as well as Japan, the European Community, and Central and South American countries as beneficiaries of most-favored-nation treatment if any one of them are uncooperative in the Uruguay Round negotiations for the service industry or in bilateral negotiations.

While expressing satisfaction over Korea's liberalization of its insurance business, the United States wanted to continue negotiations on the opening of Korean banking and the stock market during the fourth South Korea-U.S. Financial Policy Committee meeting in Washington March 10, Kim said.

He said the EC expressed interest in Korea's banking, stock market and insurance businesses in separate talks that lasted seven hours.

At that meeting, Korea pressed the EC to remove discriminatory practices such as, for instance, Germany's insistence on naming more than one head for branch offices of Korean banks in Germany, Kim said.

Kim also said the chances of reaching any agreement in the Uruguay Round negotiations on tariffs and farm products before the April 15 deadline were remote because participating nations had failed to submit their so-called offer lists on time.

Military Considers Purchasing U.S. AWACS

SK0403025192 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Military and business sources on 3 March revealed that the ROK is considering purchasing AWACS [airborne warning and control system] aircraft from the United States.

A military official, who wants to remain anonymous, said that a plan to purchase U.S.-made AWACS has been reviewed, and he hopes the final decision will be made as soon as possible.

Another military and business source also revealed that the ROK wants to buy two aircraft equipped with an early warning device.

The Hawkeye AWACS costs about $50 million, excluding on-ground guiding and support system. The ROK has no early warning system at present.

Police Alert for Possible Attack on Israeli Plane

SK0403133092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1312 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—Police were put on the alert in and around Seoul's major installations, including Kimpo International Airport, after having received information that an Iraqi terrorist group was planning to sabotage scheduled chartered services by Israeli airline, El Al, here, a vernacular newspaper reported in its Thursday [5 March] editions.

The KYONGHYANG SINMUN quoted police sources as saying that three members of a secretive Iraqi terrorist ring had been ordered to attack targets in Korea on the occasion of El Al planes' flight to South Korea.

The prospective targets include El Al planes which are scheduled to fly Korean pilgrims to Jerusalem on April 22, May 4 and May 6, according to the report.

The trio underwent special warfare and terrorist training during the Gulf war, according to the paper. Police reportedly obtained the information from the Seoul-based embassy of a Middle East country.

Police stepped up security precautions in and around Kimpo airport and other important installations such as foreign embassies, the paper added.

Meanwhile, the Justice Ministry has already instructed the Immigration Office to tighten clearance checkups and keep a watchful eye on Arabic people coming from the Mid-East region.

Delegates Fail To Agree; Next Meeting 6 Mar

SK0403054292 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Report by reporter Chang Yong-chu from the National Unification Board]

[Text] The delegates' contact for North-South high-level talks has just ended in Panmunjom. The two sides tried to reach agreement in today's meeting, but the meeting ended without success. In today's contact, our side again insisted that the deadline for the nuclear inspection be included in inspection regulations and that a trial inspection be conducted after the Joint Nuclear Control Committee is formed.

However, just as it did yesterday, the North Korean side insisted that a separate agreement is necessary to implement the denuclearization declaration. It also reiterated its previous proposal that a plan to receive an international guarantee [for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula] be included in the agreement on the Joint Nuclear Control Committee to counter foreign nuclear threats. The North Korean side refused to discuss our proposal that a trial inspection be conducted within one month after the agreement [on the Joint Nuclear Control Committee] becomes effective, saying that the Joint Nuclear Control Committee can handle this matter. Therefore, the two sides decided to hold the fifth contact the day after tomorrow [6 March] to continue negotiations.

Government Prioritizes N-S Subcommittees Agenda

SK0403065192 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The ROK Government held a meeting of reunification-related ministers on the afternoon of 4 March at the North-South Dialogue Secretariat. Choe Ho-chung, deputy prime minister and minister of the National Unification Board, presided over the meeting attended by 16 ministers, including the foreign, home, and defense ministers. They discussed measures to implement the North-South agreement.

It has been learned that in today's meeting, the government reconfirmed its policy that in the North-South subcommittee activities to start on 9 March, it will strongly state its position that the resolution of the nuclear issue is absolutely necessary for satisfactory implementation of the North-South agreement.

It also has been learned that the government decided that the Political Subcommittee will give priority to the stopping of the North and South slandering each other, that the Military Subcommittee will give priority to establishing direct telephone lines between the military authorities of the North and South, and that the Exchange Subcommittee will give priority to finding separated families and exchanging home-visiting groups.

Cabinet Links Nuclear Issue to Accords

SK0403102292 Seoul YONHAP in English 1006 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government confirmed Wednesday that it will link inter-Korean economic cooperation with North Korea's attitudes toward nuclear issues.

The government will deliver a resolute message to the North that the nuclear issue may have a grave impact on fulfilment of the inter-Korean agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, and exchanges and cooperation and on North Korean efforts to normalize ties with the United States and Japan, according to a source.

The decision came in a meeting of 16 related cabinet ministers that reportedly focused on working out follow-ups to the basic agreement and the South-North joint declaration for a non-nuclear Korean peninsula. The participants agreed on a three-phase plan for implementing follow-ups to the agreements, it was said.

In the first phase covering the period until the seventh inter- Korean prime ministers talks (May 5-8), the source said, the government will put emphasis on pushing the North to accept inspection of its nuclear facilities at an early date. Progress in inter-Korean relations will be adjusted in tune with North Korea's sincerity in the nuclear talks.

At the same time, the government has decided to make every effort to effectuate an agreement on the formation and operation of sectoral joint committees and a Panmunjom liaison office during the prime ministers' meeting so that those organizations can start to work in May.

In between the seventh and August's eighth high-level talks, or in the second phase, the government plans to focus on setting up specific guidelines for putting into action the basic agreement on a more practical footing. Among them may be the adoption of agreements on inter-Korean travel, communications, trade and economic cooperation.

Under the final-phase program, which would be afoot after August, efforts will be made to discuss and decide concrete cooperation projects and put them into practice. Individuals and private businesses will be asked not to indulge in excessive competition among themselves in promoting exchanges with the North.

Inter-Korean Subcommittee Chairmen Named

SK0403032892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—Yi Tong-pok, special aide to the prime minister, was appointed southern chairman of the Inter-Korean Subcommittee on Politics Wednesday.

Song Ung-sop, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Vice Unification Minister Yim Tong-won were named chairmen of the Military, and Exchange and Cooperation Subcommittees, respectively.

South and North Korea are to notify each other of the names of their subcommittee members by March 6. Each subcommittee has seven members, including one co-chairman, from each side.

Minister Leaves for Tokyo Nuclear Forum

SK0203084592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0611 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 2 (YONHAP)—Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon left for Tokyo Monday to take part in an international conference and meet with his Japanese counterpart.

Kim will give a keynote speech on the peaceful use of nuclear power and security measures Tuesday at the 3rd International Conference for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia.

He is also to discuss the promotion of technology transfer between the two countries and setting up a Korea-Japan foundation for industrial science and technology cooperation with Japanese officials, a spokesman said.

Kim will leave for China March 5 to have talks about a joint exploration of the Yellow Sea, joint research projects on agricultural technologies and cooperation in the fields of space materials, electronics and communications.

Urges North To Accept Inspections

SK0403003592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] South Korean Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin- hyon yesterday urged North Korea to accept full-scope safeguards and trial inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the earliest date.

Considering the Korean Peninsula is one of the most politically and militarily unstable regions on the globe, Kim said, the implementation of both the trial inspection and full-scope safeguards inspection in North Korea is an indispensable element to ensure peace in Asia and realizing the desire for world nonproliferation.

In that context, trial inspections in the South and North of suspected nuclear facilities selected by each side should be performed as early as possible, to build confidence, Kim said in a keynote speech delivered at the third International Conference for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia in Tokyo yesterday.

The minister further said that North Korea has yet to take the internal action necessary to effectuate the IAEA full-scope safeguards agreement in relation to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) even though it signed it after a delay of over six years.

In fact, the suspicion of nuclear weapons development in North Korea has been a serious concern on the peninsula as well as throughout the world.

To dispel the concerns and join the international nonproliferation efforts, North Korea should allow the IAEA safeguards inspection of its nuclear facilities, he said.

Last April, President No Tae-u declared that South Korea will only use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The minister added that was followed last November by an announcement of a nonnuclear policy stating that they will not manufacture, possess, store or use nuclear weapons.

For that purpose, South and North Korea reached an agreement on a joint declaration on denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, which was based on the nuclear talks held over the last few months, Kim said.

Concerning the treatment of spent fuel and radioactive waste, Minister Kim said that the government will construct a large-scale disposal facilities that will be centrally controlled.

Under the present government plan, he said, radioactive waste disposal facilities would be established by 1995, and spent fuel interim storage facilities would be constructed by 1997.

However, the minister admitted that in the course of carrying out these projects, site selection has been delayed owing to the opposition of neighboring inhabitants.

Last year and early this year, thousands of residents living near the candidate sites for the nuclear waste treatment facilities staged rallies protesting the government policy of building the facilities in their yards.

He also stressed that South Korea's basic nuclear policy is to move hand in hand with other countries for the realization of regional nuclear cooperation programs.

KOTRA Signs Pact With Russian Trade Group

SK0403063392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0523 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) renewed a business cooperation agreement with the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Wednesday, a KOTRA spokesman said.

The pact, signed by Kim Chul-su, president of KOTRA, and Stanislav Smirnov, chairman of CCI, succeeds the formal agreement between KOTRA and the former Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said.

It was also agreed to change the name "the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" in the texts of the agreement to "the Russian Federation."

President Warns of Asian Expansionism, Conflicts

SK0303005892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday warned against what he called a likely trend among some countries to expand their political, economic and military influence.

No did not say what specific countries he had in mind. His warning, however, came amid rising concern in South Korea about Japan's increasing clout, particularly in East Asia.

An increasing number of South Koreans have voiced concern that Japan might seek continued military buildup for dominance in Northeast Asia. Korea was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910-45.

"We will be on guard against a trend to expand political, economic and military influence with national interests as an excuse," No said while addressing the Korea Military Academy's commencement ceremony.

Observing that the world is more likely to see regional conflicts in this post-Cold War era, the President emphasized the need for the country to secure a "self-sufficient" defense capability.

He noted that despite progress in arms reduction among superpowers, the world has seen a further proliferation of advanced weapons and the increased possibility of regional conflicts.

"The fact about the Korean Peninsula today is that we are still not free of military threat," No said.

"In order to preserve our national pride and self-esteem, we should secure a sufficient self-defense capability," he added.

He then called on North Korea to quickly execute its obligations regarding its nuclear development program, warning that the nuclear question, if unresolved, would negatively affect inter-Korean relations.

"Only after the nuclear question is resolved, military trust between South and North Korea can be restored and the road to reconciliation and cooperation will open wide," he said.

No Sunday also called on the North to accept international inspections of its nuclear facilities at the earliest possible date.

"The South and the North should move toward a national community and national reunification by carrying out, one by one, the contents of the inter-Korean basic agreement and the denuclearization declaration," he said in his speech marking the 73rd anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement.

The two inter-Korean accords went into force during the sixth prime ministers' talks held in Pyongyang last month.

Russian Paper Cited on North's Power Transfer

SK0403083192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 3 (YONHAP)—North Korean President Kim Il-song is likely to turn over the leadership of the Workers' (Communist) Party to his son and heir apparent, Kim Chong-il, but to hang on to the presidency, the daily NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reported Tuesday [3 March].

A recent intensification of the personality cult of Kim Chong-il all over North Korea might point to the imminency of the transfer, but it was unsure when it would be, the Russian newspaper said.

The first Workers' Party convention in 20 years is set for shortly after Kim Il-song's 80th birthday on April 15 and the senior Kim is likely to give his post of party general secretary to his son at that time, it said.

Kim Il-song is expected to remain president, it said, as this would give him "reserve leverage" against "irrational conduct" by Kim Chong-il as well as help solidify his son's power base.

The personality cult of Kim Chong-il is being built up in North Korea at an unprecedented magnitude, it said, and countless public campaigns are under way to plant "Kim Chong-il flowers" or to send hymns and letters of loyalty to the junior Kim.

A freighter was recently christened with his name and he is often referred to as "great leader," a title reserved in the past for the senior Kim, the paper said.

North Reportedly To Purchase Weapons From CIS

SK0403055492 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 4 Mar 92 p1

[AFP, YONHAP from Hong Kong]

[Text] The XINHUA News Agency of China reported on 3 March that North Korea and the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] signed on 3 March a document on military cooperation between the two countries for 1992-1993.

The XINHUA News Agency report monitored in Hong Kong said that the document was signed in Pyongyang by North Korean Government officials and a delegation of the CIS Armed Forces led by General Viktor Samsonov.

The XINHUA News Agency reported, quoting a Russian Federation source, that Samsonov, who is chief of general staff of the CIS Armed Forces, had talks with Choe Kwang, chief of general staff of the North Korean army. At the talks, the news agency said, they discussed and exchanged opinions on the military situation in Asia and the Pacific, military cooperation between the two countries, and North Korea's purchase of weapons from the CIS.

The XINHUA News Agency also quoted sources from the Russian Federation as reporting that North Korea will, in the future, purchase weapons from the CIS in cash.

The delegation of the CIS Armed Forces visited Beijing before it arrived in Pyongyang on 3 March. ITAR-TASS reported, quoting General Samsonov's remarks, that the Chinese Government has decided to purchase 24 Su-27 fighters and various other military equipment from the Russian Federation this year.

The XINHUA News Agency reported that Samsonov delivered through O Chin-u a gift of the CIS Armed Forces to Kim Chong-il.

President No Tae-u Interviewed on Current Issues

SK0403031392 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1240 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Interview with ROK President No Tae-u by Pak Song-pom, general managing director of the Korean Broadcasting System, KBS, on the occasion of KBS's anniversary, in Seoul on 3 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted on President No Tae-u's reflections on his four years in office]

[Pak Song-pom] Let us go into details. One of your most outstanding achievements in the past four years is the implementation of our northern policy and the development of North-South relations. The North-South agreement came into force late last year. However, some people are still worried about its implementation. Would you comment on the prospect for progress in North-South relations? Also, we are most interested in North Korea's nuclear development program. Mr. President, how serious do you think North Korea's nuclear threats are? Would you elaborate on our government's position on this issue?

[No Tae-u] North Korea's nuclear issue is not merely a North-South Korea issue but an issue that is directly related to peace and stability in the world. The entire world is watching the development of this issue with great interest. Everyone is extremely interested in whether the North will ratify the Nuclear Safeguards Accord and how well it will implement it. Many people think that North Korea has been delaying the resolution of this issue. This is truly worrisome. Only when the nuclear issue is resolved can military trust be promoted and the road to reconciliation and cooperation be opened wide as stipulated in the North-South agreement. If North Korea absolutely refuses to accept a nuclear inspection, I am sure that it will face drastic international isolation. In addition, the hard-won progress in North-South relations will be useless. So we cannot help but be very worried. I take this opportunity to urge North Korea to make every effort to ease the world's suspicions because it will suffer enormous pains if it rejects the resolution of this issue.

[Pak] I will ask one more question about North Korea's nuclear issue. Our side feels seriously threatened. Foreign news reports indicate that the U.S. side feels more seriously threatened. U.S. military and security-related officials have frequently visited our country, and hearings on this issue have been taking place in the U.S. House of Representatives. Some people speculate that the United States may take disciplinary military action if North Korea expresses a clear-cut position on the nuclear issue. What do you think of this possibility?

[No] It would be very unfortunate if this issue cannot be resolved without disciplinary military action. I hope that before military action is taken, North Korea will discharge its international duty and avoid such a miserable occurrence. North Korea will not suffer alone in case disciplinary military action is taken. This is not desirable. I think that not only we but also North Korea must fully know this.

[Pak] Will summit talks between you and the North Korean president take place in the not-too-distant future, as the fruit or culmination of North-South dialogue? When will summit talks take place?

[No] Many people are talking about summit talks. My experiences from summit talks tell me that summit diplomacy is generally the most effective. I think North-South summit talks are the best way to recover trust, to implement the North-South agreement, and accelerate progress in North-South relations. Our side consistently insisted, even before the North-South agreement came into force, that summit talks are definitely necessary. This view has not changed. When we see North Korea's recent developments, I think North Korea also thinks summit talks are necessary. However, North Korea has many difficult internal problems in preparing for international cooperation. Therefore, because North Korea has many internal problems, I cannot predict or flatly say when North-South summit talks will take place.

[Pak] An atmosphere for diplomatic relations with China appears to have been promoted, which can be said to be the northern policy's final task. Do you think it possible to establish diplomatic relations with China before your term expires?

[No] I know many people hope so. It is a fact that China and our country have had close cultural and other ties historically. The political severance which has lasted almost a half century is abnormal. I think that China thinks so, too. However, fortunately the normalization of relations between the two countries has become a task at hand. Because of political and various other problems, this issue cannot be resolved if we hurry. We both think so. Substantial progress has been made in nonpolitical domains. I think the time will come when cooperative relations will be established in political domains soon. North-South relations are improving, and North Korea is on the point of improving relations with its neighboring countries. Therefore, I think an atmosphere is being gradually promoted toward diplomatic relations with China.

[Pak] Next, let me ask you about elections. The date for the general elections for the 14th National Assembly has not been officially announced, yet it seems that political parties have already begun heated election campaigns. The people view this situation with great concern, worrying that the upcoming general elections may become heated and corrupt. Mr. President, I know that you have repeatedly stressed the need for fair elections. The general elections for the 14th National Assembly are very important because they are directly related to our democratic development. Would you talk about your determination to conduct fair elections?

[No] Looking back on the 40-year history of our Constitution, we can see that our democracy does not have a long history. Genuine democracy started after my 29 June declaration for democracy. Since then, our democracy has developed substantially. The local self-government system, which is one of the key requirements for democracy, was restored last year. As a result, our democracy is steadily taking its root in our society.

The general elections for the next National Assembly are near. They should be conducted fairly at any cost so that we have democratic politics and so that we establish a correct political culture for the future. The corrupt and fraudulent elections that we had in the past should be eliminated this time without fail.

As I have stressed many times, we should not let the upcoming general elections be influenced by money. We should make the general elections fair at any cost so that we can reduce to the minimum the economic burdens caused by elections. This is because all of the people are making a pan-national effort to surmount the present difficult economic situation. [passage omitted on the need for fair elections]

[Pak] One charactertistic of the upcoming general elections is the advent of small political parties that challenge the two major political parties—the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the Democratic Party. Is the two-party system desirable for democratic development in our country? Or is the multiparty system desirable for democratic development? What is your opinion?

[No] Examples in foreign countries show that people prefer the two-party system to the multiparty system. People in foreign countries seem to believe that the two-party system is suitable to achieving political development. Even our political textbook indicates that the two-party system is better than the multiparty system. In the past our politics of the Sixth Republic were under the multiparty system. In other words, in the early period of the Sixth Republic our polititics were under the four-party system, and we had many difficulties. Political unrest was created, and politics for party interests were rampant. Thus, we caused anxiety for the people. Knowing this, I think our people will prefer the two-party system to the multiparty system in the future.

[Pak] After the general elections the DLP will decide the party's presidential candidate. You have said that the party's presidential candidate would be elected democratically, in a completely free competition. Do you think such a way will be possible?

[No] Yes, I am confident. The history of our party is very short. At first I had some worries over the process of electing our party's presidential candidate. However, fortunately our DLP is steadily taking root among our people. At the same time, our party is growing into a democratic party, so I believe there is no one in our party who disregards democratic principles. Therefore, I believe that our presidential candidate will be elected by the party constitution and the party regulations and through democratic procedures and the general will of party members.

[Pak] Even after the 14th general elections, I think the current politically charged situation will prevail until the presidential election. Party congresses will select each party's presidential candidate. Then, some people worry, the so-called lame duck phenomenon may cause unexpected chaos. How will you handle business for the remaining one year in office?

[No] [Passage omitted on No Tae-u's desire to finish well, using example of medals won by ROK skaters in the Winter Olympics] The lame-duck phenomenon is a thing of the past. We are under a democratic system. People themselves are abiding by democratic constitutional order. In the past, leaders ruled with strong leadership. Today is an era when rulers fulfill their duties based on principles. This is the difference. Therefore, I have never thought of the lame duck phenomenon. I do not think people will be swayed by such a phenomenon. I hope I will crown this year with perfection.

[Pak] I have a few economic questions. In connection with the competition of manufacturing industries, prices, foreign debts, and various other problems, many people say our economic situation is very difficult. Of course, there are people who think otherwise. How do you assess the current economic situation?

[No] [Passage omitted on No Tae-u's review of the economic development of the Fifth Republic] To curb the overheated industries for domestic demand and stabilize the economy, the government has decided on an economic growth rate of 7 percent for this year. I think this is appropriate. If we stabilize economic growth, we will be able to have the economy recover this year. [Passage omitted on No Tae-u's call on the people to work harder to remove obstacles to economic revitalization, on his elaboration of policies for the poor and other economic issues, and his plan after retirement]

[Pak] How do you want to be remembered?

[No] I want to be remembered as a president who has opened a new era of democracy and who has opened a road toward reunification. I also want to be described as a president who has built a foundation for an advanced country and who has made every effort to share dreams and pain with the people, a slogan that I shouted on numerous occasions during my presidential campaign.

[Pak] Thank you very much for having given us a special interview on our broadcasting station's founding anniversary.

[No] Thank you very much. I hope that your broadcasting station will achieve continued progress.

Burma

NLD Leader Urges Sanctions Against Rangoon

BK0303120692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Canberra, March 3 (AFP)—The head of a Burmese dissident government in exile called here Tuesday for Australia to impose trade sanctions against his country's military regime.

Sein Win, a leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), said in a statement the Australian Government should take a lead in calling for international aid agencies to halt assistance to the Rangoon junta.

He said medical supplies destined for the needy were being commandeered by the military and development funds used to buy guns.

Sein Win also called on the Australian Government to establish a Burmese refugee program.

The junta has refused to recognise a popular election held in May 1990, when the NLD won more than 80 percent of votes.

Sein, whose parallel government has taken refuge with ethnic rebels in the Burmese jungles, is in Australia to campaign for action against the military leaders. He is expected to meet Prime Minister Paul Keating later in the week.

Commission Announces Resignation of NLD MP

BK2902103292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Announcement No. 1009 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections; dated 28 February 1992]

[Text] Subject: Permission granted to U Than Tun to resign as elected member of the People's Assembly from Shwebo Township constituency-2, Sagaing Division

1. U Than Tun, who represented the National League for Democracy [NLD] in the multiparty democratic general elections in May 1990 and who was elected as a member of the People's Assembly from Shwebo Township constituency-2, Sagaing Division, had on his own volition asked the commission to allow him to resign because of health reasons.

2. In accordance with Article 11-E of the People's Asssembly Elections Law, the commission has allowed U Than Tun to resign as member of the People's Assembly for Shwebo Township constituency-2 effective today. By the authority invested in me. Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Lao Premier Concludes Visit 27 Feb, Departs

BK2702135192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] In the evening of 27 February, His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and the Lao Government delegation led by him returned to the capital, Vientiane, after an official visit to the Union of Myanmar [Burma].

H.E. Saman Vignaket, minister of education and sports; H.E. Oudom Khatthi-gna, governor of Vientiane Municipality; H.E. Thongsing Thammavong, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; and a large crowd of high-level cadres and government officials were at Wattai Airport to welcome the prime minister and his delegation. (U Lankan), charge d'affaires of the Union of Myanmar was also present at the airport.

During the four-day visit to the Union Myanmar, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and H.E. General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, met in an atmosphere of friendship and frankness. Both sides informed each other about the situations in their respective countries, with special reference to the tasks of national construction and defense.

H.E. Khamtai Siphandon conveyed friendly and affectionate greetings from the Lao Government and people to the Myanmar Government and people. He expressed his confidence that the visit to the Union of Myanmar will contribute to strengthening existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minsters of the two countries unanimously agreed that Laos and Myanmar are neighboring countries which have maintained closed spiritual bonds since ancient times and have shared a similar well-preserved faith, as well as cultures, and traditions.

H.E. Khamtai Siphandon expressed his satisfaction over the ever-growing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the important principles of bilateral relationship: respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; non-interference in each other's internal affairs; refraining from the use of force or threatening to use force in settling all problems pertaining to bilateral relations; and cooperation on equal footing and for mutual interest.

Previously, the joint border committees of the two countries jointly surveyed the border line. The undertaking will be basically completed this year, prior to signing the historical Lao-Myanmar border agreement to turn the Lao-Myanmar border into a border of genuine peace, friendship, and cooperation. The exchange of visits between the Lao and Myanmar delegations has significantly further strengthened relations between the Lao and Myanmar Buddhists and peoples.

H.E. Khamtai Siphandon and delegation also visited a number of economic bases, historic places and temples in the capital, Rangoon, and in Mandalay before flying to Pagan, an ancient city of Myanmar.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Army Chief Vows To Defend 'Parts' of Spratlys

BK0403034892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0334 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will defend parts of the Spratly Islands which rightfully belong to it, Army Commander General Yaacob Zain said Tuesday.

Gen. Yaacob, who will take over as chief of defence forces next month from retiring Gen. Hashim Mohamed Ali, was however confident that the dispute over the overlapping claims to islands would be resolved through negotiations.

Malaysia could not simply relinquish its rights to the islands claimed by it without any opposition, he told reporters.

"We will not hand over the islands just like that without any opposition but we will defend our rights over them," he said.

He was asked to comment on the recent enactment of a law by China's Parliament declaring its rights over the islands in the South China Sea and its right to use military force against any encroachment by foreign aircraft or ships.

Located some 320 km northwest of the East Malaysian state of Sabah, the islands—reputedly rich in gas and oil reserves—are also claimed by Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Brunei Darussalam.

Gen. Yaacob said: "The Spratlys can be compared to our house. If the neighbours' children try to do something to it, we are bound to do something to defend it.

"Even though we do not have the capability to go to war with China in view of its military strength and equipment, we'll try to defend our rights as far as we are able to."

He added that Malaysia would hold China to its pledge that the claims to the islands should be resolved through negotiations.

Singapore

Finance Minister Introduces 1992 Budget Proposal

BK0103095392 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] A little something for everyone, a few surprises, but not very much on the whole.

This sums up the Government's Budget announced yesterday by Finance Minister Richard Hu in Parliament.

It confirmed expectations that it would be a conservative one, with six changes on tax on companies, three on tax on individuals and four other tax measures plus an adjustment in the CPF [Central Provident Fund] rate.

Some goodies: Singaporeans can again look forward to a one-off income tax rebate of 5 per cent this year, as well as more take-home pay from July when their CPF contribution rate goes down by a half percentage point to 22 per cent.

Businesses were given a bit of cheer—a one percentage point cut in the corporate tax rate to 30 per cent as well as incentives to stimulate the flagging financial sector.

But their own contribution to CPF goes up by a half percentage point to 18 per cent, a point that was lamented by various business groups yesterday.

Surprise No. 1: For lower-income Singaporeans who live in one- two- or three-room flats and who would not benefit from the rebate because they do not pay much tax, the Governemnt will foot their service and conservancy fees for December this year—a gesture that was welcomed heartily by MPs yesterday.

Surprise No. 2: Tax reliefs for reservists, as recommended last year by the Committee on the Recognition of the Contribution of Reservists to Total Defence (Record).

Although Dr. Hu made it clear that the measure was intended to be symbolic, reservists contacted yesteray bemoaned that the $1,000 relief for active reservists and $500 for non-reservists who had done National Service, was too little.

Unexpectedly, smokers were given a reprieve this year, but drinkers, however, have been hit hard with liquor duties going up from today for all categories of alcohol, including beer.

So, too, those who make quick forays to Batam island to buy duty-free liquor. From June 1, the duty-free privilege will be extended only to travellers who are away from Singapore for more than 48 hours.

Patronising restaurants and coffee-houses will also be a bit more expensive as the Government has restored the cess [Goverment Tax] rate from 3 per cent to 4 per cent from April 1.

And in an attempt to get Singaporeans to save water, a higher tax will be imposed from April on its excessive use.

This is the seventh Budget statement to be delivered by Dr. Hu, whose two-hour speech in parliament was televised live.

It is also the first Budget that will require the assent of President Wee Khim Wee, under the elected presidency laws enshrined in the Constitution.

Beyond the much-awaited tax changes, the statement outlines the Government's economic philosophy and strategy to keep Singapore above the current international economic doldrums.

After sketching how the Singapore economy did last year, Dr. Hu announced that the growth estimate for this year has been revised downwards from 5-7 per cent to 4-6 per cent.

But he was confident that the medium-term target of 5-7 per cent can be achieved if Singapore stuck to three fundamental strategies, namely:

—ENHANCE its links with the world, with a greater focus on Asean and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

—RESTRUCTURE and upgrade continually, the Government will help in the process, he said, but it cannot lower rents or let in an unlimited supply of foreign workers.

—STICK to free market principles so that resources are used most efficiently and people are spurred on to perform better.

Turning to the Government's fiscal policy, he noted that fiscal prudence had served the country well, led to the accumulation of reserves and allowed it to embark on the Edusave and medifund schemes.

Concluding, he said that while 1992 might be a more difficult year, he was confident that economic growth would continue.

The strong economic base, sound fiscal system, investments in the people and physical infrastructure built up over the years would stand the country in good stead.

While MPs yesterday decribed the Budget as fair and pragmatic, with a few describing it as pro-business, the business sector thought otherwise.

Said the Singapore Manufactures Association: "The Budget could have done more to boost business confidence by offering more probusiness incentives for companies to globalise their operations."

In even stronger language, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry described the budget as a "zero giveaway Budget" which did not address the issue of rising business costs.

At the household level, lower-income HDB [Housing Development Board] flat dwellers welcomed the Government's move to pick up their December service and conservancy tab, but some felt that the higher water conservation tax diluted the sweetness of the year-end gift.

The Government's Budget will come up for scrutiny when Parliament sits again on March 9 for the annual marathon Budget debate.

Parliament Passes Amendment Bill on AIDS

BK2902055692 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Feb 92 p 27

[Excerpt] AIDS carriers who have sex without first telling their partners about their infection will be taken to task by the law under an amendment Bill passed in Parliament yesterday.

They could be fined up to $10,000 [Singapore dollar], jailed for up to two years, or both, said Health Minister Yeo Cheow Tong when he moved the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill.

Similar penalties would apply if AIDs-infected or HIV-positive persons refuse to undergo counseling or give blood at any Singapore blood bank.

The bill also protects the identity of any person found to be HIV-positive except in certain circumstances listed in the Bill, such as when the court orders disclosure of the patient's identity.

Fines for offences under the act for which no penalty has been specified, such as not having proper vaccination papers on leaving or entering Singapore, have now been set at $5,000 [Singapore dollars] for first convictions, and $10,000 for later convictions.

Besides dealing with AIDS, the bill also gives the Health Ministry powers to control the spread of other infectious diseases, such as Legionellosis and Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease. At present, these are not listed under the law as diseases which must be reported to the health authorities.

Mr. Yeo told Parliament that Singapore now had 111 HIV-positive victims, with the number of new cases rising each year.

Forty-two cases were reported last year, up from 17 in 1990 and 10 in 1989.

Health Ministry figures showed that eight new cases were uncovered last month alone.

This means that 1992's figures could well be double last year's.

Mr. Yeo also said that the majority of those infected were heterosexuals, rather than homosexuals and intravenous drug addicts.

Advising the public to stay away from "high-risk" activities, he said his ministry would step up its AIDS education programme. [passage omitted]

Trade Ban on South Africa To Be Lifted 'Soon'

MB0203202692 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 2000 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Singapore is to lift restrictions on trade with South Africa soon. Investment, imports, and exports between the two countries will be permitted, but the arms embargo against South Africa, as well as loans to the government, will remain in place.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Speaks at Battambang Reception 1 Mar

BK0303114192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Speech by "His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council," at a reception hosted by the Party Committee and People's Committee of Battambang Province in Battambang city on 1 March—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, head of the State of Cambodia's Government, and his wife; H.E. Say Chhum, deputy prime minister of the State of Cambodia's Government; and H.E. Sami, chairman of Battambang Province, and his wife.

First of all, I would like to express thanks to all their excellencies and wives, and ladies and gentlemen here or working in Battambang Province who cannot be present due to their missions. I would like to express most profound and wholehearted thanks in my own name and that of my wife for the meticulous reception and the week-long program planned for me and my wife so that we will be most comfortable within the great familiy of compatriots in Battambang Province under the shade of Buddhism, our state, and national religion.

I would like to immensely thank H.E. Chairman Hun Sen and his wife—whom I most highly consider—who have kindly accompanied me from Phnom Penh to Battambang in the fine aircraft of the State of Cambodia, and most tenderly taken care of us every day with sincere affection by first providing us with great comfort in our fine Battambang Province, and second, by enabling me to carry out the historic mission using Battambang as the strategic base to cement, as H.E. Chairman Hun Sen has just said, the various zones of various parties in Cambodia and to unite them from now on, and to have national unity with genuine independence and territorial integrity [applause] in our fine Angkor motherland.

I would also like to thank H.E. the province's governor and his wife. Thank you all, my most beloved and highly considered children in all ministries, both military and civilian, and the police under the shade of the clergy and abbots, who look after and assist us this whole week.

Before when I and my wife were fortunate and honored to pay the first state and official visit to Battambang Province since returning permanently to the motherland, we enjoyed very good souvenirs with you in Battambang. Now I am staying with you in Battambang for the second time. There are unforgettable souvenirs that we will take back with us to Phnom Penh and the royal palace and which we will cherish—the souvenir from our visit and the assistance given us, and this evening, too, a sumptuous reception in an atmosphere of fraternity and great unity among Cambodians. I am very happy and would like to express thanks to the children, musicians, and artists, who every day show off their fine talents. They accompany me on my visits to various cities and provinces of the State of Cambodia. They further lighten the atmosphere during the visits I have been fortunate and able to make to various places. And these children are now here to display their talents to our beloved compatriots and people in Battambang this evening.

In sum, you have organized all these events well, including national construction and defense. You have made all kinds of sacrifices and achieved 100 percent success. The Cambodian People's Party and the State of Cambodia's Government [applause] deserve to be genuinely proud of this. You have also achieved 100 percent success in organizing this event to enable me, as cement, to bind all four parties, areas, and regions in Cambodia in order to build, in the future, our Angkor motherland into a more brilliant land. You have meticulously organized this under the direct, astute, and clear-sighted direction of H.E. Chairman Hun Sen. You have scored 100 percent success in this, too. I express warm thanks and admiration to all of you with much affection.

I will not talk much this evening because you are very tired from the activities of the week. I am also very tired [laughter]. All of us are carrying out missions to serve the nation and motherland and unite in serving our nation and motherland. You are very tired from this week. This evening we consider your mission 100 percent successful. As H.E. Chairman Hun Sen and his wife said this afternoon when I returned from Prince Ranariddh's zone, that, too, was 100 percent successful. We unite in a great family and in a happy and relaxed atmosphere to enjoy the reception hosted by H.E. the governor of the province and his wife. The food is delicious, certainly delicious; I have not tasted it yet, but it will be delicious. So, there is no need to wait any longer.

I would like to end the speech now with happiness. I am most happy with the fact that you have considered me your father, the prince father. It is not the titles of head of state or chairman of the Supreme National Council that make me proud. What makes me most proud is the kind acknowledgment of their excellencies and wives, and all of you, that we are your father and mother, grandparents, and great-grandparents. This is what comforts me and makes me most happy—to be with you until I die with happiness and warmth, and to have great energy to cordially serve and build the nation with you forever. [applause]

It is with these sentiments that I once again express warm thanks and admiration for national construction efforts to develop our nation to make our people happy with freedom worthy of the name of the Angkor motherland. This is the achievement of the Cambodian People's Party headed by H.E. Chea Sim, with H.E. Hun Sen as vice chairman and H.E. Heng Samrin as chairman of the State Council, and the State of Cambodia's Government headed by H.E. Hun Sen, whom I highly consider and very much love. I most highly consider and love the three excellencies and chairmen and their wives. Thanks to their excellencies. Thanks to H.E. Deputy Premier Say Chhum, who is also kind to be here, and his wife, following H.E. Kong Sam-ol. Thank you all very much, my beloved children, their excellencies the chairmen and their wives, H.E. the governor of Battambang Province and his wife, and all the children.

I have not forgotten the children in other provinces. I again pledge that I will certainly visit them and all leaders of the party and the State of Cambodia's administration. I have not been able to visit them yet because of the hectic program in Phnom Penh and a number of areas. I promise to visit you and admire and encourage you in all the State of Cambodia's provinces. May the triple Buddhist jewel look after their excellencies and chairmen, and wives; H.E. the deputy premier and his wife; H.E. the governor of the province and his wife; their excellencies and their wives; ladies and gentlemen; and all the children, not forgetting the great-grandchildren. May you enjoy the five Buddhist blessings.

Thank you. [applause]

Distributes Gifts to People

BK0303113392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Summary from poor reception] "At 1830 on 1 March in front of the royal residence in Battambang Province, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and wife, accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], chairman of the State of Cambodia's [SOC] Council of Ministers, and member of the Supreme National Council, and his wife; H.E. Say Chhum, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and standing vice chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers; and deputy ministers and deputy directors of various ministries, as well as several personalities and officials of Battambang Province, distributed gifts in the form of sarongs and cloth to cadres, employees, and workers of Battambang Province."

In his report to the prince and his wife, the representative of the committee in charge of organizing national and international festivals said: [Begin recording of unidentified representative of committee] Since the 1,616 cadres, employees, and workers involved in providing hospitality to Your Highnesses and your delegation are busy with their work and cannot all come to receive gifts directly from you, the CPP and government have selected these 15 representatives to accept the gifts on behalf of the 1,616 honorees. Please proceed with the distribution. [end recording]

[Begin Sihanouk recording] "I salute H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the SOC Government, and Madame. My respects to their excellencies the state and party leaders of Battambang Province and madames. My respects to all beloved children and grandchildren present here and those who are not here because they are engaged in the excellent work in support of their Prince Father and Princess Mother. I would like to express most profound thanks to H.E. Chairman Hun Sen and Madame as well as H.E. Say Chhum and Madame, H.E. the Provincial Governor and Madame, and all excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen who are honoring this occasion with their presence in this place and at this moment. I thank H.E. Chairman Hun Sen and Madame most of all for organizing this excellent commemorative ceremony to enable me to repay my tribute to my children from all departments who have been working tirelessly day and night in making possible this reception and who are doing all kinds of support work for me personally and for my wife and our delegation during our second visit to the beautiful Province and city of Battambang. Thank you, Your Excellency."

Following is the list of those taking part in performing reception work for the delegation: 997 policemen; 250 provincial Army personnel; 30 Battambang regional Army personnel; 25 provincial party committee staffers; 90 drivers, medical workers, cooks, and waiters; 33 personnel from the provincial industry, construction, electricity, and water works; 62 provincial information service personnel; 30 personnel from the provincial communications service [words indistinct]; and 61 musicians.

"I would like to take this excellent opportunity to express my 100 percent satisfaction to all children from all departments, particularly those who belong to the list that my beloved chairman H.E. Hun Sen handed me just a few minutes before I came here to meet with all of you. I extend my greatest gratitude and warmest admiration to all of you from all services who have so kindly supported me, my wife, and our delegation to enable us to achieve 100 percent success and be so happy and secure in our so harmonious stay with all of you. This is one of our best and unforgettable memories. We are going to bring this memory back to Phnom Penh. Thank you very much.

"I also would like to take this opportunity to inform my children in other provinces throughout Cambodia that I will surely see all of you. I am very happy to see my children in Battambang once again and I have the same feeling of love and affection toward all my children in other provinces. I convey this sentiment over SOC television. Thank you once again. May the triple jewels of Buddhism protect H.E. the Chairman and Madame, excellencies and madames, and all beloved brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren. May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. [applause] [end recording]

Following the prince's speech a representative of the workers took the floor to say:

[Begin recording of unidentified workers' representative] It is a dream come true for all of us to see both of you with our own eyes and receive gifts from you in person. We would like to express our greatest gratitude, respect, and love for the Prince Father and Princess Mother. May both of you live for hundreds of years in order to be the cool shade for all of us. [end recording]

"This ceremony proceeded in a most joyous atmosphere and with the best spirit of national unity and reconciliation."

National Trade Unions Federation Holds Meeting

BK0303083192 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0150 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 2 Mar (SPK)—The National Committee of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions recently held a meeting in Phnom Penh to examine the activities of the trade unions in 1991 and set their tasks for the current year.

The meeting participants appreciated the situation since the execution of the new political program of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) Central Committee and the implementation of the Paris accords which would bring peace back to Cambodia as desired by the Cambodian people.

The meeting endorsed the laws adopted by the recent 22d session of the National Assembly calling them necessary for the political stability and for the implementation of the Paris accords.

The meeting agreed with strengthening solidarity within all social strata aimed at reconciling the nation and developing the society in the interest of all Cambodians.

The chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions, Mrs. Men Sam-an, urged the cadres to double their activities in all localities and to improve their work in the interest of the people.

Phnom Penh Opens Bids for 20 Oil Concessions

BK2902043992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Feb 92 p B8

[Text] Cambodia has opened up the bidding for 20 petroleum exploration blocks nationwide to all companies wishing to explore for and produce oil and natural gas.

The action ushers in the second round of petroleum concession bidding held in Cambodia after the government opened the first concession last June.

According to Ith Praing, vice minister of the Ministry of Industry of Cambodia, 18 onshore blocks and two offshore blocks will be offered to those companies which submit appropriate proposals. The deadline for the bid falls in April.

Cambodia has 26 petroleum exploration blocks nationwide, of which the Cambodian government has granted seven blocks to four companies that took part in the bidding held from June 7 to Aug 10 last year.

Investment candidates can gain an exploration period of eight years, with a maximum of four years initially followed by two extensions lasting two years apiece. The investment can come wholly from foreign sources but the Cambodian government reserves the right to participate.

The production-sharing contract will depend on the bidder; however, the Cambodian government prefers to take at least a 65 per cent share. Bidders have to pay the government a royalty of 12.5 per cent for all petroleum produced, he said.

"I can't fix the benefit-sharing percentage as it will be proposed by each company. But if a proposal is very good, we can discuss it in the government," he said.

Asked how much petroleum he thought would be found at the sites, Praing said it was difficult to make a forecast since data in the country is inadequate.

The previous bid awarded petroleum exploration and production contracts to four groups, enabling them to operate six offshore blocks and one onshore block. All of the firms were given the right to explore and produce petroleum in the Siam Basin area in the Gulf of Thailand.

According to the work programme, the four companies are to start drilling for petroleum next year.

The four investors are the French based-Compagnie Europeenne des Petrols (CEP) in association with Britain's Enterprise Oil, the group exploring Blocks 1 and 2. According to an informed source, CEP Co has also invited PTT [Petroleum Authority of Thailand] Exploration and Production Co, an exploration arm of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, to join the investment.

Coming second is Hungary's Nawa Co, which operates Blocks 5 and 9.

The third company is Premier Oil Pacific in association with three oil companies (one Spanish and two Australian). These four companies have teamed up in Block 4.

The last is Japex Co or Japanese Petroleum Exploration.

An average block covers roughly 4,000 kilometres, although he said some blocks cover a 7,000 square-metre area.

According to the previous concession, the investment in petroleum exploration and production for each block was around US$20 million, or equivalent to Bt500 million.

Blocks 1 to 10 are located in Siam Basin. Seven out of the 10 blocks are offshore and the remaining three are onshore.

Moving on, Ton Le Sap basin is home to Blocks 11-17.

Korat basin, which is connected to Thailand, is the location of Blocks 18-20. Preah basin comprises Blocks 21-23, Chung basin Block 24 and Mekhong basin Blocks 25-25 [as published].

Praing exchanged views with Thai Industry Minister Sippanon Ketuthat on Thursday in what he described as a courtesy meeting. Apart from inviting Thailand to participate in the forthcoming bid, the two sides have agreed to set up a committee to discuss joint development and overlapping territory between Thailand and Cambodia.

UNTAC Advance Group Arrives in Phnom Penh

BK0403025492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 3 (AFP)—An advance group preparing the way for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has arrived in the capital, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

The group of 20 Indonesians will prepare for the arrival of a battalion of UNTAC peacekeeping forces on March 13, they said.

UNTAC is due to be officially on the ground March 15 with the arrival of its civilian and military commanders, Yasushi Akashi of Japan and Major-General John Sanderson of Australia.

The two-billion dollar operation, due to have 22,000 soldiers, police and civilians, is the largest in U.N. history.

A battalion of Malaysian Rangers is also due to arrive in mid-March in the first stage of deployment.

Khmer Rouge Violations in Kompong Thom Noted

BK0303123992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Despite the fact that the Cambodian peace agreement signed on 23 October 1991 is being implemented, there have been violations of the cease-fire accord by Cambodian groups on the other side, particularly Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge group.

According to a report by a military official in Kompong Thom Province, in February this year the Khmer Rouge forces launched successive activities in this province. For example, they shelled the positions of the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s Armed Forces on 17 occasions, launched two attacks, robbed the people, and forced them to transport ammunition and replenish their manpower.

Due to these activities by the Khmer Rouge elements, which remain as cruel as when they were in power in the 1975-78 period, many people were killed and a large quantity of their property and farm tools lost.

Senior Lieutenant (Khan Sarin), chief of Administrative Department of the Kompong Thom Provincial Unit, said the Pol Pot clique is still trying to carry on the civil war in Cambodia. The clique's barbarous activities clearly attest to its resolute decision to not abide by the agreement.

The senior lieutenant stressed that the SOC side, and the military sector in Kompong Thom Province in particular, have been restrained and strictly abided by the Paris peace agreement, adding that, however, our Armed Forces pledge to defend our territory and people's security.

The UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] has set up its base in Kompong Thom Province—as requested by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council, and the SOC side—in order to inspect implementation of the cease-fire and hold work sessions with commanders of all factions' Armed Forces.

But since 13 February not only has the Khmer Rouge side been absent from the four-party military work sessions, but it has also recently committed a new criminal act against the UNAMIC.

In Kampot Province, on 15 February Khmer Rouge soldiers launched a surprise attack on a military position and held up a people's truck transporting salt to (Don Vai) in (Prey Khnang Commune). They stole some salt, a motorcycle, and three bicycles, and destroyed the truck.

In Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, the Khmer Rouge soldiers also intensified their military activities. From 16 to 21 January they shelled and launched surprise attacks on Pongro Leu, Khvav, and Preah Theat

Communes in Chikreng District. Some people were killed or wounded and the survivors compelled to flee from their localities.

A war refugee reported that the Khmer Rouge elements have continued to shell these areas. According to the military sources in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, the Khmer Rouge elements have continued this shelling in order to blaze a trail for the transport of arms and ammunition for storage in Kompong Thom Province. This is being done in preparation for the coming Khmer Rouge offensive prior to the arrival of the forces of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

The policy of combining armed struggle with political warfare, as mentioned in the plan of Chhit Chhoeun, alias Ta Mok, clearly attests to Democratic Kampuchea's strategic scheme to infiltrate and expand the ideologies they implemented from 1971-74. The Khmer Rouge have also saved their arms for launching a protracted war.

Part of the Khmer Rouge tactics mentioned in their plans are that the ammunition they have stockpiled will last seven to eight years.

The people throughout the country have called on the United Nations to quickly send UNTAC to Cambodia in order to supervise the cease-fire and disarm all factions.

Intimidation Against KPNLF Members Discussed

BK0403050092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 4 Mar 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 4 (AFP)—One of Cambodia's four factions said Wednesday that its members were being intimidated and killed despite a peace plan to end the civil war.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), loyal to former prime minister Son Sann, said one of its members was shot dead last week.

Another was wounded and his five-year-old daughter killed when gunmen opened fire on his home around midnight on March 1, said KPNLF advisor Sangva de Lopez.

"We do not know who ordered these crimes, but there is a lot of intimidation and harassment of all members of our party, particularly in Prey Veng Province," near the Vietnamese border, de Lopez said.

He said "a number of people" had fled to Phnom Penh fearing attacks and that the KPNLF residence in the capital was harboring three people who do not feel safe enough to walk the streets.

He charged that Phnom Penh government police were harassing KPNLF members.

"We don't want to accuse anybody, but there is some kind of coincidence that the victims of harassment and shootings are members of our group," he said. "We cannot confirm they are politically motivated."

The man who was killed lived in Kompong Cham Province, north of Phnom Penh, was a police officer, and was shot dead while walking down the street at midday last week, de Lopez said.

He said he knew of no motive for the crime and that the local police were investigating.

But in the case of Tho Chheng, living outside the capital in Kandal Province, two men carrying AK-47s knocked on his door at midnight.

"When he came out they started shooting," de Lopez said. "It seems these people who came to the door spoke bad Khmer with a noticeable Vietnamese accent."

The KPNLF is fiercely nationalist and anti-Vietnamese. The incident was broadcast on Khmer Rouge radio, which is also anti-Vietnamese.

Tho Chheng was not seriously injured, but his daughter was killed, de Lopez said.

De Lopez said Tho Chhen had evicted Vietnamese squatters from his property the day before.

"This could be an isolated case or it could be politically motivated," he said. "But there is some kind of coincidence."

Phnom Penh's leading dissidents have been keeping a low profile and several are in hiding after two shootings believed to be politically motivated took place in January.

Oung Phan, a friend of the prime minister and an outspoken critic of corruption, was wounded in the neck and shoulder by gunmen who drove by.

Ti Bunlong, another government critic, was executed in a field after being abducted from his home. His friends said he had spoken out against corruption before his death.

The KPNLF regularly publishes a critique of the Phnom Penh Government detailing reports of corruption and misdeeds.

The dissidents say they will speak out again after the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) can guarantee their safety.

UNTAC, the largest U.N. operation ever planned, is due to deploy March 15 to maintain the peace in the runup to elections.

Red Cross Signs Medical Agreement With Japan

BK0103052492 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0415 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 1 mar (SPK)—A medical cooperation agreement between the Red Cross of Cambodia and that of Japan was signed in Phnom Penh Wednesday.

The signatories were Dr. My Samedi, Cambodian deputy minister of health, and the representative of the Japanese Red Cross Masakata Kono.

Through this accord, the Japanese will provide the Chamka Mon Precinct, Phnom Penh, dispensary with aid and assistance for three years.

Indonesia

E. Timor Students Reject Portuguese 'Peace Boat'

BK0303144092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1033 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Dili (E. Timor), Mar 03 (OANA-ANTARA)—East Timor students here Tuesday released a statement saying that they rejected the presence of Portugal's so-called peace boat, Lusitania Expresso, in the Indonesian waters as it will only hurt the people of the former Portuguese colony more.

The six-point statement was released following a meeting of the students senate at the East Timor University (UNTIM) here where various arguments were raised.

The statement was signed by among others chairman of the students senate of UNTIM's Agriculture Faculty, Filomeno De Jesus Hornay.

Also signing the statement on behalf of their fellow-students were Fary D.J. Francis, Saragih, Made Winada, Fransisco Miguel Martins and Lukas Sapang.

They all shared the opinion that the Lusitania Expresso was a reflection of the Portugal Government's provocative attitude.

The original text of the statement Tuesday afternoon was presented to chairman of the East Timor provincial legislative assembly Guilherme Dos Santos, while the copies to the Indonesian head of state, house speaker, coordinating minister for political affairs and security, foreign minister, Indonesian ambassador to Australia, chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces, governor of East Timor, chief of the East Timor operational military command, head of the East Timor socio-political affairs office, chairman of the Dili Loro Sae Foundation, and rector of the East Timor University (UNTIM).

The complete text of the statement said that first, East Timor is an inseparable part of Indonesia since the issuance of the Balibo Declaration on November 30, 1975.

Second, East Timor's integration with Indonesia was based on the intention of the former's people with no foreign intervention.

Third, the integration of East Timor with the rest of Indonesia was the logical consequence of the first and second points. The integration has now been "filled in" with development programs in various sectors. Any problems coming out from such programs have been settled by the sovereign Indonesian Government without any outside interference.

Fourth, efforts to involve foreign parties will only cause unrest among the East Timor people who are longing for peace and prosperity.

Fifth, Portuguese students as passengers of the Lusitania Expresso who intend to go to Dili will not help efforts to settle problems there, especially with the human rights issues as a pretext. Instead they will only hurt the feelings of the East Timorese more who already suffered for around 450 years under Portuguese colonialism. The plan to go to Dili is obviously provocative in nature.

Sixth, taking into account the above-mentioned considerations, the East Timor students agree to reject the presence of the Lusitania Expresso which has a Portuguese flag and carry Portuguese students on board in Dili, East Timor.

Foreign Minister Stresses Nonaligned Movement

BK0203071992 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says the existence of the Nonaligned Movement is in fact needed to intensify the North-South dialogues. Speaking to reporters in Bonn, Germany, Foreign Minister Alatas said the North-South relations have become an increasingly important topic of dialogue in the efforts to establish a new global order. As such, coordinating work can be carried out in various ways, including dialogues between nonaligned countries and the G-7, G-15, and G-77 countries. Alatas added the Nonaligned Movement's presence is needed more at this time so as to cope with threats against world security and stability.

Foreign Minister Alatas was in Bonn for a one-day visit in his second-round tour of Western European countries to clarify the 12 November 1991 Dili incident to government leaders and members of parliament of the countries he had visited.

Suharto To Limit Imports From China

OW0303081492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Jakarta, March 3 KYODO—President Suharto, pledging to protect small-scale domestic industries, has said the government will impose limitations on imports from China, a news report said Tuesday.

In a meeting with a group of small-scale industrialists from Sukoharjo, central Java province, Suharto said the threat from China's products after the mending of the two countries' diplomatic relations in August 1990 had been anticipated, the vernacular SUARA KARYA newspaper reported.

"I have therefore asked the Chinese Government not to flood Indonesia with its products, especially those already being made by small-scale industries (here)," Suharto was quoted as saying.

Indonesia and China normalized diplomatic relations in august 1990 after a 23-year break.

The flow of goods from China to Indonesia, especially of light industrial products, has soared ever since.

Before the normalization, trade chambers of the two countries already had close ties.

President Suharto said there is no need for small-scale industry to be worried since import limitations on China's products has been the government's policy.

He called on Indonesia's importers not to place sole priority on their own personal interests when importing Chinese products, despite their lower prices.

He reminded the Indonesian importers that if the flood of imports from China continues, they could sink local small-scale industries that are less competitive mainly because of higher labor costs.

Laos

Increased Party Leadership in Military Urged

BK0303140392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Editorial: "Heighten the Party's Leadership Role in the Ranks of the Armed Forces"]

[Text] Respected listeners, beloved friends and comrades: Looking back on the historic leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] over the past more than 30 years, our entire Army and people have appreciated the precious utility and understood the great significance of the leadership role of the party. The party's leadership role has brought success to all sectors of work. It is obvious that organizations under the direct, consolidated, and unified leadership of the party in each and every locality are considered significant factors and have strong potential in helping us achieve victories.

The complete liberation of the country and the successful establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] is considered an event of historic significance, an event which cannot be reversed by any enemy because it evolved under the talented, clear-sighted leadership of the LPRP. The party's leadership is, therefore, considered necessary and significant to all social activities. It is appropriate to consider the party the leader of all students, intellectuals, and all people of all strata in society. Noteworthy is that since its founding, our Army, from being small and weak to becoming big and strong, has all along been organized, led, educated, and trained by the party. It is the party that has equipped our Army with an ideological weapon, firm stand, and spirit of patriotism, and a spirit of being indignant at enemies.

Our country is now in a period of peace. It is enduring in a situation in which a trend of peaceful coexistence is maintained in the world and the region. In light of this situation, it is appropriate for us to attentively consolidate and perfect the popular democratic system to make it unprecedentedly firm and strong.

In view of the present situation in which the popular democratic system has been increasingly consolidated and perfected, the old concepts have been replaced with new ones, and the world and regional situation has been complicatedly changed, it is even more necessary for us to uphold and enhance the party's leadership role, particularly in the contingent of Army units as well as in the ranks of Armed Forces. Party units and party members must pay attention to training and tempering themselves in terms of revolutionary qualifications and ethics, and to studying politics and military subjects as well as culture in order to build their own strength and raise the level of their capabilities and the spirit of perseverance and industriousness in engaging in labor to promote production. The purposes of this are to maintain self-reliance and self-sufficiency, maintain unity in thought and action, to gain complete confidence in the party's leadership, and, in particular, to accomplish the party's restructuring cause in the political, military, and economic fields to build Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous country.

To achieve this goal, each and every sector, branch, and unit—from units of regular forces down to regional Armed Forces, militia-guerrillas, and self-defense forces—are required to positively enhance the party's leadership role. In this regard, cadres and party members must clearly act as an example in taking a leading role in all spheres and leading all units to successfully fulfill the historic task in the new stage of revolution.

Drug Control Talks Held With Burmese Committee

BK0303151992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday, a delegation of the central-level Narcotics Committee of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] led by U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs and vice chairman of the committee, arrived in Vientiane. The delegation was welcomed upon its arrival by Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the Narcotics Control and Suppression Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

Delegations of the LPDR and the Union of Myanmar, respectively headed by Souban Salitthilat and U Ohn Gyaw, held official talks on the same day. The two sides discussed and exchanged views on various issues aimed at promoting and expanding the cooperation between the two countries in fulfilling the obligations of using measures to thwart threats of drug addiction and control narcotics. It is expected that the two sides will be able to reach an agreement on comprehensive cooperation with other neighboring countries in deterring drug trafficking in many respects.

DPRK's Kim Chong-il Awarded Highest Order

BK0303112792 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 17 Feb 92 p 1

[Decree issued by Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on awarding the Kiattikhoun Order to Kim Chong-il, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and supreme commander of the Korean People's Armed Forces; dated 3 February 1992]

[Text] The Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]

Peace, Independence, Democracy, Unification, and Prosperity

Decree of the president of the State of the LPDR on conferring the Kiattikhoun Order

With reference to Item 8, Article 53 of the Constitution of the LPDR and Recommendation No. 01/N.Y. dated 31 January 1992 of the prime minister of the LPDR, the president of the LPDR has issued the following decree:

Article 1. This is to confer the Kittikhoun [Honorable] Order, which is the highest order of the LPDR, on Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and supreme commander of the Korean People's Armed Forces, on the occasion of his 50th birthday for making important contributions to strengthening the longstanding relations of friendship and cooperation between the parties, states, and peoples of the two nations of Laos and Korea.

Article 2. This decree becomes valid on the day it is signed.

[Dated] Vientiane, 3 February 1992

[Signed] Kaysone Phomvihan [with the emblem of the President of the LPDR affixed]

Luang Namtha To Open Tourism Service With Yunnan

BK0203112692 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 2 (KPL)—Luang Namtha is preparing for the opening of tourism in the province. In the near future, Chinese visitors will be able to come to this northern province and Lao travellers will also tour Sibsong Panna, Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China.

In April, Diethelm Travel agent in Laos will hold a cultural package tour to Luang Namtha [sentence as received].

This was disclosed by Mr. Loi Chansavat, vice governor of Luang Namtha.

A 40-bed hotel is being built, and is reportedly complete by 50 per cent.

More Reportage on Foreign Business Ventures

Sweden To Aid Road Construction

BK2902092492 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 29 (KPL)—The Swedish Government has agreed to provide more grant aid amounting to 255 million krona (Swedish currency) or about U.S. $42.5 million to the Lao Government for the road construction for the 1991-1992 period.

A memorandum on the aid provision was signed at Lan Xang Hotel on February 27 between Lao Deputy Minister of Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction Noi Indavong and the Swedish charge d'affaires a.i. [ad interim]

The aid fund will be divided to different services. These include the maintenance project of Road 13 A-South (Vientiane-Thabok section), the construction project of Road 13 South (Thabok-Pakkading section) to be carried out through international bid.

The same aid will also be allocated to the training centre in road and bridge construction, the communication school, the institute of designing, and for the training of technicians in charge of road construction management to further strengthen the management and inspection of road construction activities.

Wood Factory Leased to Japanese Firm

BK2802122292 Vientiane KPL in English 1010 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 28 (KPL)—The Lao Government has rented the Finished Wood Factory No. 1 under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to a Japanese firm, the Lao-KK Okinawa Ikito Co. Ltd. A 10-year lease of 119.9 million kip was signed here recently between the Land Property Department and the management of the company.

The lease provides that the lessee shall employ all the existing staff of the factory. In case of need to extend the lease, a new agreement is to be concluded.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has some 33 business undertakings under its management. So far 11 of them have been turned to other forms of ownership, of which the Finished Wood Factory No. 1 was the first leased to the Japanese firm.

Philippines

U.S. 'Denounced' for Dry Docks Removal

HK0403031792 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 4 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The Government, in a sudden turnaround from its pro-bases stance, yesterday denounced the United States for deciding to remove its three dry-docks from Subic Naval Base.

"The Americans are hard-hearted," Press Secretary Horacio Paredes, who has been blaming anti-bases senators for virtually every bases conversion problem the government now faced, said over radio.

"The drydocks are old, and they cannot be brought to Guam's shallow waters. Why can't they just bequeath them to us?" Paredes asked.

Government sources who asked not to be named said these views reflected those of Mrs Aquino, whose stand on the bases issues had been waffling in different directions over the years.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa told reporters there was no assurance that the U.S. would have their ships serviced in Subic after it was converted.

This, despite offers from the Palace for an access arrangement similar to that enjoyed by the U.S. with Singapore.

De Villa also confirmed that the U.S., after nearly a century, was definitely leaving the Philippines and taking along with it all removable equipment before June, which marks the start of the rainy season here.

"There is no guaranty that they will come back and have their cruisers, their destroyers and some other naval craft serviced at Subic," de Villa told reporters at a breakfast forum.

The Americans also decided against providing a list of the equipment it would leave behind, indicating it would take everything, including the drydocks, out.

He said a senior Pentagon official had briefed them on the American intention to immediately withdraw from Subic, and their eventual transfer to various U.S. installations in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Japan, Korea, Guam and Hawaii.

But the Americans vowed to remain a close military ally, indicating their intention to maintain the existing RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty.

The treaty stipulates that the Philippines will automatically defend the United States in times of war, but the U.S. will only defend the Philippines with the consent of its Congress, the Senate and its Executive Branch.

Senatorial aspirant and former labor secretary Ruben Torres asked government-owned shipbuilding firms to hire displaced base workers so as they would not have to migrate abroad.

Torres, a Lakas-EDSA [Epifanio delos Santos Avenue-Strength] candidate, said about 3,000 highly-skilled Subic base workers would lose their jobs this month, as the Americans would begin phasing out.

Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore expressed interest in getting these workers because of their skills and experience in working with U.S. Navy ships, Torres said.

He added that losing such workers to other countries would worsen the country's brain drain problem and jeopardize government plans to convert Subic into a commercial shipbuilding, ship repair and port terminal.

"We need these highly-qualified and skilled workers to operate our own commercial and industrial facilities in Subic," he told a press conference in Makati.

"I suggest that the Batangas ship repair facilities hire them immediately, match their salaries to keep them here. We need their services more than the other countries."

ASEAN Attitudes to U.S. Presence

HK0403034492 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 4 Mar 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Our ASEAN Allies Read U.S. Signals Correctly"]

[Text] The current visit here of the United States assistant secretary of defense for international security, James Lilley, underlines his government's determination to dismantle its heavy equipment from the Subic naval base within the next three months. He has said that the last two drydocks at Subic will have been relocated to other parts of Asia by next month. The first was towed to Guam last month.

This action is consistent with the U.S. decision to take out from Subic "all removable items," including the drydocks. Efforts of the Aquino government to persuade the U.S. to keep the drydocks here under some form of access arrangement have failed.

Anti-bases groups are not reading the signs correctly. They persist in believing that the U.S. is clinging to Subic. From all indications, the withdrawal is irreversible. The Philippines' neighbors are reading the American signals more accurately than we are and adjusting their security policies to take advantage of the dispersal of U.S. military facilities in the Asia-Pacific Rim.

Before visiting Manila, Mr. Lilley had told an Asia-Pacific defense conference in Singapore that the closure of U.S. bases in the Philippines had increased the need for U.S. access to military facilities and training areas elsewhere in the region. The dismantling of Subic does not mean the removal of U.S. security presence in the Pacific. The undersecretary of state, Robert Zoellick, has said that, while the U.S. was committed to keeping the Asia-Pacific region stable and secure, the dispersion of forces once based in the Philippines foreshadowed change in the deployment of these forces.

Indonesia is reading the message correctly and appears to have made a radical shift in its regional security policy. Speaking at the Singapore defense conference, the chief of the general staff of Indonesia's armed forces, Vice Admiral Soedibyo Rahardjo, said that Indonesia would increase military cooperation with the U.S. to help prevent a security "vacuum" in Southeast Asia that could be filled by other powers such as Japan, China and India.

He said Indonesia would step up joint naval exercises with the U.S. and, what is more, it was prepared to open its dockyards to U.S. warships on a commercial basis. Indonesia's change of mind is amazing, considering that it has been a leader in the non-aligned movement and had officially objected to the presence of foreign bases in the region because these contravened the principle enunciated by Asean seeking to make Southeast Asia a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. In the face of the new U.S. dispersal policy and the end of the Cold War, Indonesia is at last shedding its hypocrisy and is being more honest in expressing its security interests in the region.

More amazing is Admiral Soebidyo's statement that Indonesia fully agreed with an accord signed by Singapore that allowed U.S. air and naval forces extensive access to the island for repair, resupply and training exercises. The U.S. has transferred its logistics command center from Subic to Singapore. The admiral said: "We understand the need for this kind of thing since the presence of American forces, to be quite honest, is needed to maintain stability in this part of the world."

Malaysia, another Philippine ally in Asean, has said that U.S. naval vessels will start using its Lumut dockyard for ship repairs next month. Thailand and Brunei have offered landing and docking facilities to U.S. forces.

The picture that we get is that our Asean allies are accommodating themselves to the dispersal of U.S. facilities and forces after we have decided to reject them because they impaired our national sovereignty. We, alone among our Asean allies, are moving in the reverse direction. Perhaps, their accommodation reflects that they are more confident about their capacity to defend their political and economic independence from intervention by bigger powers. If suggests that they realize that in diplomacy it is important to use the weight of one big power to counterbalance the growing power of such countries as India, China and Japan.

Perhaps, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia have long ago stopped their struggle against neocolonialism and have strengthened their economies, permitting them to feel the essence of independence and be confident in their own ability to preserve their autonomy.

From all evidence, the withdrawal of the U.S. forces in the Philippines is irreversible. The towing of the dockyards is clearly not "for show." The U.S. is not bluffing about speedy withdrawal. If the next Philippine government tried to reverse the Senate decision to end the bases relationship, it would not be in step with Filipino public opinion and nationalism. Even in the U.S. Congress and in the administration, keeping the bases here is not on the cards. Anti-bases groups may find better use of their time searching for new issues rather than recycling those that have already been made irrelevant by events.

Money Needed To Clean Up Subic

HK0403074392 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Senator Alverez says the government needs P1.5 billion [Philippine peso] to clean up toxic wastes at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. Senator Alvarez explained that the financial assistance must come from environmentalist groups like the World Wild Life Fund that normally help pro-environment projects in the country by means of a major debt swap arrangement involving the country's P28 billion debt with foreign creditors. The debt swap aims to clean up the toxic wastes which were dumped in the two military bases.

At the same time, Senator Alvarez also asked Malacanang to form a tripartite committee [preceding two words in English] to investigate the effects of the toxic wastes on the residents of the area. Alvarez based his statement on a report made by the U.S. General Accounting Office that a large amount of money will be needed to clean up the toxic wastes that have accumulated in the two bases. It is in light of this that the government needs to take steps to gather the P1.5 billion to fund the clean up of both Clark and Subic.

Foreigners Advised To Avoid 'Critical Areas'

HK0403072792 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 4 Mar 92 p 12

[Text] Foreigners were advised yesterday by the Philippine National Police (PNP) to refrain from travelling to at least five critical areas where the peace and order situation is unstable due to intensified armed combats.

This call followed a PNP command conference conducted before some 50 police and security attaches of the different embassies.

PNP deputy director general Lt. General Flores identified the areas as the Cagayan Valley in Luzon, Mindoro and Samar in Visayas, Northeastern Mindanao and the Jolo-Tawi Tawi area in Mindanao.

These areas are known to be traditional communist strongholds or "NPA [New People's Army] country." The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), as part of its final phase campaign against local communist rebels, recently "brought the combat into enemy territory."

An American businessman, Arvey Duane Drown, was abducted two years ago and is still held captive by NPA cadres in Kalinga-Apayao.

Save for the five areas, the peace and order situation in the country has, however, improved, Lt. Gen. Flores told BUSINESS WORLD.

To buttress his claim, he cited the aggregrate criminal incidents for the first two months of the year, which have declined by almost 17 percent compared to the same period last year.

"The improved situation is mainly due to the Comelec-imposed gun ban and the increased visibility program of the PNP," he added.

He further said the foreign attaches have viewed the kidnapping incident of Philippine Geothermal Inc. vice-president and general manager Michael Lynn Barnes as "an isolated case."

Aside from the briefing on criminality in the country, the PNP also reported on its role in the coming elections and the declining security threats from the ultra-rightist group and the secessionist rebels.

He said the foreign diplomats, after the briefing, expressed confidence that the PNP would be able to provide security for foreigners.

Aquino Defends Investment Agreement With Taiwan

HK0203124392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino defended the new investment guarantee agreement between the Philippines and Taiwan. The president said that the agreement does not violate the one-China policy and would attract investment from Taipei. In a statement, she said that this agreement is imperative if we want more investment to enter the country.

Contradictions of One-China Policy Viewed

HK0403041992 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 4 Mar 92 p 10

[Editorial: "One-China Policy; Still a Big Headache"]

[Text] Its One-China Policy is once again proving to be one big headache for the government. Government officials, led by President Aquino, have been issuing statements in the last few days in an attempt to appease Beijing following the recent signing of an investment pact between the Philippines and Taiwan.

Private sector initiatives led to the signing last week of an investment guarantee agreement between the Manila Economic and Cultural Office and the Taipei-based Pacific Economic and Cultural Center. This agreement, patterned after similar accords Taiwan has signed with other Southeast Asian countries, guarantees the protection of Taiwanese investments in the Philippines, for a fixed period, from expropriation or nationalization on account of war, revolution or any other disruption of the governmental status quo.

This guarantee of protection, which Taiwanese businessmen have long been seeking, is expected to result in a sharp increase in investment from Taiwan. Boasting of the largest cash reserves in the world, Taiwan is a much sought after investor in the region. Taiwanese investments in the country, however, nosedived last year after politicians—both in Congress and the Supreme Court—thwarted the establishment by a Taiwan company of a $370-million petrochemical complex in Batangas.

Philip C. Chien, chairman of the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines Inc. believes that the recent agreement will dispel the uncertainties of Taiwanese investors about doing business in the country. Thus, he foresees a new wave of Taiwanese investments to come to the Philippines.

It is, therefore, quite disturbing to see government officials, particularly the President, apoligizing for an agreement that will obviously be good for the country. It is bad enough that this government does not always serve the national interest; it is certainly disappointing to see it feeling sorry during the rare occasions that it does.

Existing Embassies To Cover Former Soviet States

HK0403040392 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 4 Mar 92 p 12

[Text] Following recognition of the independence of former Soviet states, Malacanang has chosen to farm out responsibilities for the country's representation in those states to existing embassies in adjacent countries rather than increase the number of Philippine missions. In a memorandum to the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA], dated February 10, President Aquino designated the following embassies to take on concurrent responsibilities as follows: the Philippine Embassy to the Russian Federation to handle Kazakhstan and Belarus; the Embassy in Iran for Armenia and Turkmenistan; the Embassy in Pakistan to cover Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan; the Embassy in Turkey for Azerbaijan; the Embassy in Poland, the Ukraine; and, the Embassy in Romania for Moldova. A senior DFA official said that, as recognition for Georgia is still pending, relations with it have not been designated to any Philippine Embassy yet.

Senate Takes 'Hands-Off' Stand on Spratlys

HK0403095792 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Senator Jovito Salonga said the Senate is taking a hands-off policy stand on the Spratly Islands issue, because ownership claims over the islands are getting complicated following the People's Republic of China's passage of a law declaring its claim over the whole Spratly Islands. Salonga said that diplomats should take caution in issuing statements so as not to aggravate the situation.

Meanwhile, Senator Pimentel said the Philippines should request government-to-government talks with concerned countries so that this issue may be resolved through diplomatic channels. Pimentel does not believe that this will lead to China taking agressive action in the Asia-Pacific region amid the considerable reduction in U.S. presence in the region. He said, it is possible for the ASEAN countries to form a mutual defense and economic cooperation regarding the Spratlys issue.

In Malacanang, President Aquino has expressed her desire to channel this issue through peaceful means, and added that the Philippines is ready to support any call for a government-to-government talk on the issue. However, Press Secretary Horacio Paredes asserted that the government is prepared to defend the islands it occupies, which are part of the Spratlys group.

Russian Space Agency Appoints Philippine Agent

HK0403083692 Quezon City MALAYA in English 4 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] The International Organization of Space Communications (InterSputnik) of the Russian Federation recently appointed a Philippine registered company as its agent in the country and the Asian region.

The appointment was made in a Memorandum of Intent signed in Moscow Russian Federation last Feb. 14 by Deputy Director General Eduard Vecerek of the Federation's InterSputnik Directorate and A. Sagun, executive vice president of The Communications & Broadcast Managers Inc. [TCBMI] of the Philippines. InterSputnik director general Boris Chirkoy and [as published] deputy minister Mikhail Elizardo of the Russian Federation and Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, Informatics and Space, later affirmed the appointment in a meeting with Ciriaco Reyes Jr., chairman of TCBMI on Feb. 17.

The cooperation envisions the expansion and further development of the telecommunications industry in the Asian region. Specifically, the InterSputnik Directorate officials are hoping that the said satellite service will improve the communications linkages between the Asian region and Russia, Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The InterSputnik communications satellite assigned to the said region is carrying transponders for television and radio broadcasting transmission. There are also transponders for telephony/data transmission and distribution.

Technically, the telephony/data transponders are considered to be the lastest in the industry. Said transponders are equipped with FDMA-SCPC-QPSK-PCM/ADPCM channels, FDMA-SCPC-FM channels, FDMA-MCPC-PM-PCM group channels and TDMA subframe for VSAT and 64 KB/s terminals [expansions unknown].

The entry and use of the InterSputnik communications satellite service into [as published] the Philippines will surely bring the country at par in telecommunications with the more advanced countries in Asia like Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, Reyes said.

This is the first time that the InterSputnik satellite service will enter the telecommunications industries in the Philippines and the Asean region. The Asean countries have relying on the limited transponders of the Indonesian PALAPA and the old INTELSAT Pacific bird.

GNP Declines Despite Fourth-Quarter Growth

HK0403040792 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 4 Mar 92 p 8

[By Andres B. Saracho]

[Text] The economy rebounded in the last three months of 1991 to register a fourth-quarter growth of 3.63 percent, but the recovery failed to offset the declines in the first three quarters that eventually led to a full-year contraction of 0.05 percent, data released yesterday by the National Statistical Coordination Board [NSCB] show.

The decline in real gross national product during the year was a sharp contrast to the 3.93 percent growth recorded in 1990, indicating a 2.26 percent contraction in per capita GNP, the NSCB said.

Gross domestic product, the total value of goods and services produced during the period, dropped by 1.02 percent compared to a 2.40 percent growth the year earlier.

The economic decline in 1991, the first since an economic turnaround began in 1987 under the Aquino administration, was traced to the series of natural and manmade calamities that struck the nation in 1990 and last year as well as to the economic stabilization program implemented by the government under a new credit arrangement with the International Monetary Fund.

Among the sectors, only the combined agriculture, fishery and forestry sector managed to grow at a slightly faster pace than in the previous year, 0.71 percent against 0.38 percent. "This was largely due to the marked recovery in 1990," said NSCB secretary general Romulo A. Virola.

The combined industry sector, on the other hand, was the hardest hit by the adversities as it contracted by 3.29 percent against the growth of 1.81 percent in 1990. Construction dropped the steepest, by 15.74 percent, followed by mining and quarrying (3.29 percent) and manufacturing (2.89 percent).

Reflecting the overall economic scenario, the services sector stood still with a zero growth. The small gains in trade and transportation, a 1.39 percent and 0.46 percent, respectively, failed to offset the big declines in all the other subsectors.

On the demand side, high prices and unemployment slowed down the growth in personal consumption expenditure from the previous year's 5.38 percent to 2.25 percent. Government consumption, on the other hand, contracted by a large 6.06 percent compared to a 9.26 percent growth in 1990 following mandatory cuts in spending in line with a tight fiscal program for the whole year.

NSCB statistics also showed gross fixed capital formation dropped by 13.98 percent with the significant reductions in the expenditures on construction and durable equipment by 11.48 percent and 16.49 percent, respectively. In 1990, capital formation posted a 5.69 percent advance.

Exports rose by 4.61 percent compared to 1.25 percent in the previous year despite the global economic slowdown. The imposition of the 9 percent import levy early during the year, meanwhile, took a heavy toll on overall import performance. Imports contracted by 3.08 percent compared to the high 10.04 percent rise in 1990.

The NSCB noted, however, that remittances from overseas Filipino workers gave the economy the much-needed cushion during the year. The workers largely contributed to the P7-billion [Philippine pesos] increase in net factor income in real terms from the 1990 level, Virola said.

Inflation rate, as measured by the GNP implicit price index, went up to a higher 16.53 percent from the 13.35 percent registered in 1990.

Official Cites Economic Reasons for Trade

HK0403093392 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 4 Mar 92 p 8

[Text] The Philippines expects no problems with its relations with the People's Republic of China [PROC] despite the recent signing of a private sector-led bilateral investment promotion and protection pact between Manila and Taipei.

Trade and Industry Secretary Lilia R. Bautista said this yesterday as she pointed out that the Philippine ambassador to Beijing has had the chance to apprise PROC trade officials of the ramifications of this new commercial framework in the light of global trade relations.

"They (PROC trade officials) understand that for economic resons, we have to deal with Taiwan," Bautista said.

To date, Bautista pointed out that the country is still trying to balance its trade relations with PROC, the source of many imports now flooding the domestic market. The protocol on trade balance between the PROC and the Philippines, the Department of Trade and Industry chief said, will shortly be reviewed.

She stressed, however, that the bilateral investment agreement was signed last week between officials of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office and the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office and not between their respective government trade representatives. Five Philippine provincial governors, however, who visited Taipei last week on a formal investment mission witnessed the signing.

The Philippines, thus, followed Indonesia in forging a similar private sector-led investment convenant, Bautista said, adding that one such pact was earlier formally inked between state trade officials of Singapore and Taiwan, before the tiger city-state [as published] recognized the PROC.

Malaysia, Bautista noted, is still working out details of their own similar pact with Taipei.

Recognizing the changing aliances in the Asia-Pacific region, the government hopes that this new era in the bilateral relations between Taipei and Manila will not only foster prosperity, but also create favorable conditions for business cooperation, Bautista emphasized.

Aquino: Military Coup Not To Occur After Poll

HK0403090492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Press Secretary Horacio Paredes said that a succession bill will be passed by the Senate and that a military takeover will not occur in the event that the president's successor is not proclaimed after the May elections.

[Begin Paredes recording] The president is confident that the military will not carry this out. She is also confident that the Filipino voters will make their choice known, and that their choice will be the next president.

Even if the candidate was a minority winner, with only 40 percent of the votes, it would still be very clear who won. She still believes in the electoral process and she also has faith in the Commission on Elections [Comelec]. She believes that Comelec has the efficiency, has the integrity to proclaim the right people. So, for her, it is not a problem. However, for some, it is. To them the president can only say: If this is a problem for you, come 25 May, I will file this [succession] bill and I hope that you will ratify it as soon as possible.

The president has faith that even if some of the congressmen and the senators were to lose in the coming polls, they would not be so selfish as to say that they do not care about the entire affair since they are no longer in the government. We still believe that they are honorable people. [end recording]

Aquino Orders Review of Human Rights Violations

HK0403095692 Quezon City DWDD Defense Department Radio in Tagalog 0400 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] President Aquino has ordered Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and Human Rights Commissioner Mary Concepcion Bautista to review the Amnesty International report on alleged human rights violations in the country. The president wants to rectify any wrong impression the report has reflected.

Captured Soldiers Deny Reported NPA Brutality

HK0403081292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 4 Mar 92 p 4

[By Carol Arguillas]

[Text] Davao City—Five Army soldiers captured by the New People's Army [NPA] said they were treated well and denied military reports that NPA guerillas gouged eyes, beheaded or tortured their wounded comrades during the Feb. 15 ambush in Surigao del Sur.

At least 39 soldiers and militiamen were killed in the NPA ambush in Marihatag. It was biggest victory scored by the communist guerillas so far this year.

The statement of the five soldiers was contained in a Feb. 25 news release issued by the BALITA NG MALAYANG PILIPINAS-MINDANAO, [NEWS OF THE FREE PHILIPPINES-MINDANAO; BMP] the official news agency of the National Democratic Front in the island.

BMP identified the five "prisoners of war" as Sergeant Florencio Patrocinio, Corporals Rolando Anasco and Celso Labares, and Privates First Class Luis Laswe and Melvin Gregorio.

BMP quoted Labares as saying Capt. Romulo Bonggay's eye was not gouged but was hit by a bullet. "He was hit. One of his men urged him to surrender but he wasn't able to respond because he died instantly."

Labares said he was beside Pfc. Regino Calanza and Sgt. Billy Tugal when they were administered first aid treatment by the NPA. The two were later airlifted to Manila for treatment.

Patrocinio was quoted as saying nobody was beheaded and that a number of the soldiers died due to loss of blood "because it took time before the wounded were recovered."

Anasco said he was wounded in the right arm when he decided to surrender. He said he was given anti-hemorrhage tablets.

The five also wrote messages to their wives and mothers through the news release.

In his message, Laswe told his wife Minda not to worry about their child's graduation from kindergarten.

"Don't worry about our child who's graduating from kinder [as published] on March 20. Do this, Go to Bayugan Uno, Agusan del Sur, alight at the rolonda, then look for First Sergeant Manrique. His house is near the CAMACOM [expansion unknown] church. Claim my salary," he wrote.

"I'm alive, I have a wound in my right hand. It's treated everyday," Laswe added. To his mother, he wrote; "Please don't worry. Just wait for our release."

Gregoria's message to his wife: "Ta, I'm fine. Don't worry."

"Hon, please take good care of our children," Labares wrote his wife. "I'm in good hands. I'm not wounded."

"Hon, I'm okay. If there's any problem, approach Nanay," Patrocinio wrote his wife.

Candidates Ask Comelec for Temporary Release

HK0403035892 Quezon City MALAYA in English 4 Mar 92 p 2

[By Carlito Pablo]

[Text] Four military rebels running for elective posts in the May 11 elections asked yesterday the Commission on Elections [Comelec] to order their temporary release from AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] custody to allow them to campaign.

The four officers are Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina; Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador, Col. Alexander Noble and Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando.

Homobono Adaza, NP [Nationalista Party] senatorial bet and counsel for the officers, said Comendador plans to run for a congressional post in Pasay; Blando, the gubenmatorial or vice governor seat in Nueva Ecija; and Noble, for governor or vice governor in Bukidnon. Abenina is a senatorial candidate of the NP.

Adaza said Abenina is similarly situated as other military rebels, particularly Col Red Kapunan, earlier ordered released by the AFP.

He said Abenina has not been convicted for any of the charges filed against him before military and civilian courts.

Adaza said he and NP senatorial candidate Dominador Aytona are willing to take Abenina under their custody.

Thailand

Service Trade Talks With U.S. Inconclusive

BK0303111792 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 3 Mar 92 p 7

[Text] Supphachai Phisitwanit, deputy permanent secretary of the Finance Ministry, has reported on the results of the GATT talks on the issue of service trade. He said the negotiations carried out included both the bilateral trade talks with the United States and the multilateral trade talks with various countries. However, no conclusions were reached in the negotiations because each offer by each country was based on its own benefit.

In particular, it is noticeable that in the talks with the United States that country tried to propose that Thailand allow more free trade in financial services, especially in the opening of new commercial bank branches. The United States proposed that Thailand be allowed to open new bank branches in any state in the U.S. in exchange for Thailand opening its doors to new branches of American banks. It has been determined that Thailand will lose, not gain if it accepts this proposal.

In the GATT meetings, there was a limitation on kinds of services Thailand offered in order to fully open its doors to other countries. They included the establishment of a credit card company, financial counselor firm, and broker dealing with credit follow-up. Thailand cannot liberalize all the businesses because in doing so it will only suffer disadvantages. Thailand cannot accept the United States' proposal on the opening of new branches of commercial banks or insurance companies because, as we all know, even if the United States allows us to open such branches in any state, it will still not be profitable for Thailand to invest in this.

Firm Position Taken on Pharmaceuticals

BK0403010992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 92 pp 13,22

[Text] On the eve of the first bilateral talks since the Legislative Assembly passed the new Patent Act, a senior Thai official said yesterday Thailand will refuse to yield if the United States seeks further concessions on pharmaceuticals.

The comment came amid indications in Washington that two remaining points of contention in the pharmaceutical patent dispute will be raised by US officials at a meeting with their Thai counterparts in Bangkok today.

Although largely satisfied with the patent bill that the National Legislative Assembly approved on Thursday the United States is concerned about the "compulsory licensing" provisions, designed to prevent abuse of the monopoly power drug companies will enjoy as a result of pharmaceutical patents.

The Americans are also dissatisfied with the absence of protection for drugs already invented but not currently licensed for use in Thailand.

The Thai official, who requested anonymity, said Thailand has already given in fully to US demands by setting up a patent system for pharmaceuticals this year. The two remaining issues were not the original US demands but were introduced by the Americans in a later stage of negotiations, he said

"We won't give anything more," the Thai official said.

He expressed confidence that Washington would withdraw its threat of sanctions against Thai exports in the ruling that is due by mid-March. It would be up to US officials to explain to the American private sector what had been achieved, the Thai official added.

If, however, Washington decides to retaliate against Thai exports, Thailand is ready to denounce the US action globally, the official said. He appeared to be referring to the threat Thai officials have repeatedly made that if the United States does retaliate, they will challenge the action through the settlement procedure of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the world trade watchdog.

Today's bilateral talks will follow meetings of senior officials in Bangkok on Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The US delegation, which will be headed by Nancy Adams, deputy assistant US Trade Representative for Asia and the Pacific, declined yesterday to comment on the bilateral talks.

One of the contentious provisions of the new legislation, which was passed by the National Assembly last week and will become effective 180 days after publication in the Royal Gazette, is Article 27. It says the government can force patent holders to issue licences to competitors if monopoly power is abused.

An important criterion for judging whether monopoly power is being abused will be the price of the patented drug as sold in Thailand. This feature the US pharmaceutical industry finds unacceptable.

Under the law, if a pharmaceutical product is sold at an "unreasonably high price", the government has adequate grounds to order the patent holder to issue production or marketing licences to other companies.

As far as the United States is concerned, the phrase "unreasonably high price" is too vague. It could, the Americans say, easily be abused by the Thai government to legitimise the withdrawal of patent protection from any patentee at any time.

According to Roger Brooks of the US Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, no other country in Asia uses this criterion for compulsory licensing. Canada is the only developed country to use the criterion, but even

Canada has altered the provision as a result of the intellectual property rights negotiations in the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks.

Mr Brooks' organisation has lobbied for several years for Washington to retailiate against Thai exporters if Bangkok fails to provide protection for pharmaceutical patents.

The other contentious issue is the failure to provide "transitional" protection for new drugs that are in the "pipeline" during the initial stages of pharmaceutical patent protection.

According to the new Thai law, a product that has already been patented elsewhere but has not yet been approved for marketing in Thailand on the date the law comes into force—and is therefore in the "pipeline"—will not be granted patent protection in Thailand.

The underlying principle of the legislation is to grant patent protection based on a product's novelty and its chemical formula. The argument is that if a product is already registered for patent protection elsewhere then it is not novel and should not receive protection.

The provision of "transitional" protection for "pipeline" drugs has always been an important item on the US negotiation list in talks with Thailand. It has been one of the most contentious issues between the two countries.

The United States has requested that under transitional arrangements, the patent life of a pharmaceutical product should begin on the date when the patent application is first filed, no matter where, and be valid for 20 years, regardless of when the product is registered in Thailand.

The new Thai law does provide some backdating for "pipeline" drugs, but only 18 months. A request for pharmaceutical patent protection in Thailand can only be made if the first application for a patent for the drug was made in another country less than 18 months previously.

The law does allow inventors to apply for patent protection in several countries simultaneously, however.

The United States is hoping that it can negotiate transitional patent proteciton with Thailand between now and the March 15 deadline for a decision to be announced on whether to retaliate against Thai exports under the Special 301 provisions of US trade law.

What the US has in mind is a similar arrangement to the one it concluded on intellectual property rights with China in mid-January this year.

At the eleventh hour of intense negotiations to avoid trade retaliation by the United States against China, an agreement was reached in the form of a memorandum of understanding that provides for changes in China's patent law.

The momerandum says China will implement an administrative arrangement providing retroactive protection—"marketing exclusivity", in the words of the Chinese—of seven and a half years form January 1993 for US patentees. The arrangement effectively provides protection outside the scope of Chinese law for US drugs patented anywhere as far back as 1986.

Mr Brooks said the US pharmaceutical industry hopes that the United and Thailand can reach an agreement on the two outstanding issues in such a way that will avoid the imposition of US trade sanctions against Thailand.

We were very pleased with the situation (the US) reached with China and that the retalition list did not have to be used. It is not our purpose to see that kind of action taken by the US," said Mr Brooks.

China is one of the three countries designated by the United States under the Special 301 section of trade law as "priority countries" for intense negotiations, and possible retalition if talks fail. The other two are India and Thailand. The complaint against all three was inadequate protection for intellectual property rights.

Anan Orders Review of Czech Aircraft Purchase

BK0403063592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 92 p A1

[Text] The Royal Thai Air Force's [RTAF] costly plan to buy 50 advanced training jets from Czechoslovakia ran into a major hurdle yesterday when Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun ordered a review of the details. An informed Cabinet source said Anan raised objection to immediate approval of the RTAF proposal to buy the L-39 Albatross jets with a budget of Bt5.3 billion [baht] when it was submitted to the Cabinet for consideration yesterday.

The premier said a careful study will be needed of details of the purchase plan before any decision can be made, the source said.

Anan ordered the government screening committee on economic affairs to review the plan before sending it back to the Cabinet for further consideration, according to the source.

The premier told the Cabinet meeting that the purchase of the aircraft will have to be made under a Cabinet resolution on the RTAF's purchase of weaponry which sets the maximum budgetary commitment at five years and limits the spending on any one proposal to no more than 75 per cent of the RTAF's annual budget, the source said.

The plan to buy the 50 L-39 aircraft was approved in principle by the government screening committee on security affairs last week and forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration.

Deputy Communications Minister and Air Force Chief of Staff ACM Suthep Thepharak yesterday confirmed the Cabinet had delayed a decision on the proposed Bt5.3 billion aircraft purchase.

He said the Cabinet did not reach a conclusion on the plan because the amount proposed for the aircraft purchase exceeded 75 per cent of the RTAF's total budget.

The air force proposed the purchase of the L-39 training jets after it withdrew its request for Bt19 billion from the government to buy 38 AM jet fighters, which are jointly manufactured by Italy and Brazil.

The decision to halt the AMX jet purchase was made after Cabinet members expressed reservation over the suitability of the costly procurement programme.

The proposal to buy 50 new training jets is part of the RTAF's plan to update its aging aircraft fleet.

Among the current fleet of trainer aircraft are older T-37s, some of which have crashed.

The air force has already acquired a fleet of Pilatus advanced turboprop trainers during the past few years.

It is believed that the L-39 jets it wants would be supplied by Czechoslovakia and, when armed, could be used in a close air support role.

Previously, the RTAF had not shown any interest in buying L-39 aircraft. In January 1990, it sent a team to inspect MB-339C aircraft made by Aermacchi of Italy, which also manufactures the AMX jet fighters.

At that time it wanted to buy the MB-339C, an advanced jet trainer with Rolls Royce engines similar to the AMX's.

The RTAF cited a lack of funds to justify its withdrawal last month of the proposal to buy the AMX aircraft.

The withdrawal was considered by some observers as a face-saving move as the purchase plan had faced strong opposition.

The caretaker government has earlier rejected huge arms purchase plans put forward by the military, especially the air force.

Foreign Minister Asa Leaves for Indonesia

BK0303145292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin left for Indonesia this morning to attend the first Thai-Indonesian Joint Economic Commission meeting in Jakarta. He told reporters at the aiport before his departure that the agreement on eocnomic and techonlogical cooperation agreement between the two countries was signed on 18 January. His delegation comprises deputy agriculture minister and a number of relevant officials.

The foreign minister said that Thailand's trade volume with Indonesia has been small. So, it is a good opportunity for him to find ways to promote trade and investment between the two countries and to pave the way for the private sector to take part in the promotions. Representatives from the Board of Investment are in his delegation.

Asked whether there are still conflicts and fighting in Cambodia, the foreign minister said the conflicts should reduce when the entire United Nations Peacekeeping Force begins operations in Cambodia. Richard Solomon, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, said yesterday that the United States has approved U.S.$600 million dollars for the United Nations as expenses to establish peace in Cambodia. Repatriation of Cambodian refugees will begin as scheduled on 2 April when the Thai military unit completes the first phase of the road repairs.

Vietnam Blames Country for Mekong Forum Delay

BK0403095792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 92 p A 4

[Text] Vietnam has criticized Thailand for having caused the postponement of the plenary meeting of the Mekong Committee which had been scheduled for Feb 17 to 22 and which was to approve the legal status of the Supreme National Council (SNC) as the legitimate representative of Cambodia in this regional organization, thus halting the work of the committee, reported the English daily VIETNAM NEWS published here yesterday.

The paper also quotes Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai as telling the Thai ambassador to Hanoi that recent proposals by Thailand contravened the Paris Agreement on Cambodia by making Cambodia's return, through the SNC, to the Mekong Committee conditional on the removal of the Committee's basic documents.

The paper reported that following the signing of the Paris Agreement on Cambodia, Prince Norodom Sihanouuk had written to the Mekong Committee asking for Cambodia's re-entry to the group following over a decade of absence due to upheaval within the country. Initially formed by Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam in 1957, the committee was represented by a Bangkok-based interim body comprising Laos, Thailand and Vietnam since 1978. The paper reported that instead of welcoming the participation of the SNC to bring to a close the Mekong Committee's current interim status, "Thailand, seeking to scrap the basic documents it had agreed to, turned down the statement prepared by the Committee's secretariat and approved by Laos, the SNC and Vietnam which simply expresses welcome to the SNC. Thailand also unilaterally postponed the planned meeting."

The paper reported that in a letter dated Feb 24, Vietnamese premier Vo Van Kiet urged his Thai counterpart to intervene for an early return of Cambodia, pledging his country's willingness to cooperate and to join discussions on issues of mutual interest with other member states along the Mekong River.

Khieu Samphan Pledges Support for UN Peace Plan

BK0403052892 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Mar 92 p 20

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin on 3 March disclosed that on 2 March a Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan called on Sarot Chawanawirat, director of the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry, to confirm to his Thai counterpart of the Khmer Rouge's stand to render its cooperation and support for the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia.

On the occasion, Khieu Samphan made a pledge that the Khmer Rouge is ready and willing to act in accordance with all the conditions set in the UN peace plan for Cambodia, despite the current conflict that led to the recent fighting in Cambodia.

In addition, the Thai foreign minister said that Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific affairs, has informed him that the United States is prepared to grant a financial assistance of U.S. $600 million, or 15,000 million baht approximately, to the United Nations in order to attain the goal of the Cambodian peace plan.

APEC Moving Toward Secretariat, Regular Funding

BK0403014992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 92 p 22

[Text] APEC, the loose grouping of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation countries, is moving closer towards setting up a formal secretariat with regular funding from its members.

A two-day meeting of senior officials from 14 of APEC's 15 members ended here yesterday with participants reporting a clearer consensus that the group needs stronger institutional support.

The upshot should be more concrete results from the two and a half-year-old group's work programme and regular consultations, and the likelihood that the secretariat could be somewhere in ASEAN, possibly Bangkok.

Thailand, the host of this year's APEC ministerial meeting in September, has been assigned to draft recommendations for ministers to consider. Thai officials say the options for APEC's future have been narrowed down to two or three alternatives, all involving a permanent office, staffing and a formal budget.

"You have to have an entity to write the cheques to," said a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity at a background briefing.

APEC's members comprise the six ASEAN nations, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Canada, the United States, and the "three Chinas"—China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Only Hong Kong was not represented at this week's meeting.

The group has failed to arouse public interest in its member states and the US official acknowledged that it would eventually have to produce more concrete results in order to "keep ministers' interest alive".

But officials from Thailand, the United States and other countries argue that many of the work programmes have developed to the stage where some areas of significant regional cooperation could emerge.

Among the more promising, they say, are plans to set up electronic exchange of trade information such as customs data, a manual that will serve as a guide to telecommunications training in the region, the possible harmonisation of telecommunications standards, tourism cooperation and closer ties between universities in APEC member countries.

They also attach importance to the fact that members are willing to discuss their differences on trade and other issues.

"One of the nice things about APEC is that everyone in that room sees the benefit of dialogue," the US official said of this week's negotiations.

"The one thing we can all agree on is that trade is the cohesive factor."

Officials said yesterday that among the questions that could be settled by the September ministerial meeting are: where to set up the secretariat, how large its staff should be, whether its head should be a permanent appointee or a group representing member countries, how to work out financial contributions and whether countries could opt out of payments for individual projects that do not interest them.

The question of further expanding APEC's membership could be discussed in September, but the issue was not raised this week, officials said.

Participants generally agreed that if there is a secretariat, it should be small.

Asked whether the United States could convince fellow-members that it would fulfil whatever financial contribution is agreed, when the US is already in arrears in its subscription to the UN, one US official said the scales were incomparable. "We're talking about the Empire State Building and a doll's house," he said.

Thai officials believe Bangkok stands a good chance of being selected as the site for the secretariat. Other prominent candidates are said to include Jakarta, Singapore, Hong Kong or Seoul.

So far APEC has consisted of ministerial meetings rotating through the capitals of the region and official committees preparing work plans. Funding has been based on voluntary contributions for various tasks and the host country for each meeting has acted as an unofficial secretariat.

There has been no discussion of trade cooperation in the form of coordinated policies or preferential tariffs—a move that would lead to talk of a trade bloc being created. But some participants were evasive when asked whether such action was categorically ruled out.

The idea of APEC being a possible trade bloc failed to die down ever since the group was first proposed by the then Australian prime minister, Bob Hawke, in December 1988. Then the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks appeared to be heading for stalemate. Also at that time, much interest—and some concern—was aroused by the European Community's plans to establish a single market and the US-Canadian negotiations to set up a free trade area.

One US official said yesterday that when the Uruguay Round has ended, either in failure or success, APEC will have to assess how best to improve trade cooperation.

One point the Americans have been keen to stress is that they are not merely participating in APEC in order to avoid being left out of regional arrangements that are being set up.

"It is a mistake to think that the US is involved in APEC in anything but a dedicated, supportive fashion," one US official said.

Anan Declines Comment on Recent Criticism

BK0403013192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday declined to comment on the recent spate of criticism against his government saying that there are 57 million Thais and he cannot satisfy all of them.

"Who is criticising me?" Mr Anan asked. "If you mean the NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] chief adviser (Bunchana Attakhon) then you have to ask him about it yourself."

Mr Bunchana and NPKC vice chairmen ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Gen Suchinda Khraprayun have criticised the performance of the Government which recently prompted Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchupan to say that the council should also bear the blame for any shortcomings by the administration because it was the one to appoint the Government and had a consultative capacity to play.

Mr Anan said that he does not like to comment on criticism expressed by other people because they all have the right to speak their minds. It was normal for policies or systems set up by the administration to be criticised under a democratic system.

"In every country before or after the election, politicians and columnists all have the right to criticise. If they want to criticise they can," the Prime Minister said.

He said the duty of the prime minister was to listen to the criticism and if it was reasonable then the Government must accept it and make adjustments.

"But if the criticism has no point or is motivated by a dishonest intention, then it depends on the estimation of the premier and the ministers as to how they should take such criticism," Mr Anan said.

He added: "You have the right to criticise and I have the right to take or reject the criticism."

Deputy Interior Minister Charoenchit na Songkhla was not overly concerned about the criticism.

"Those who are doing the work and those doing the criticising are two different groups of people. We have been doing the work for just over 12 months and are given a 50 percent grade—imagine what we could do with four years. I am satisfied with the results."

Mr Charoenchit said that past governments that had stayed in office for four years had not achieved as much as this interim administration.

Meanwhile, Deputy Communications Minister Wirot Saengsanit denied a rumour that Gen Sunthon and Gen Suchinda had a meeting with New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and had agreed to let Gen Chawalit become the next prime minister.

Gen Wirot, who is also in the NPKC, said that the council had never discussed the issue. "Who will become the next prime minister depends on the people on election day," he said.

Deputy Defence Minister Wimon Wongwanit said that he did not take criticism against the Government seriously since it reflected the views of a small portion of society.

"It's like when you ask blind people to feel an elephant with their hands. Some may say that the part they touch feels like a wall, while others may say that it feels like a rope or a big pillar," he commented.

National Peace-keeping Council chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong admitted that the Government's performance could be viewed in both positive and negative ways.

He said the NPKC would have to share the responsibility for the Government's achievements or failures.

Routes for Gas Pipeline Under Consideration

BK0403020392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] The Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) is studying several routes for a gas pipeline from the

Mataban Gulf in Burma to Thailand, deputy governor Pratin Patharapon said yesterday.

The routes under study include an onshore pipeline from the Mataban Gulf to the Three Pagoda Pass and Phetchaburi, or from the Three Pagoda Pass to Ban Pong District of Ratchaburi, or from Burma to Wang Noi District of Ayutthaya.

Mr Pratin said another route under study was the offshore line from Burma to Prachuap Khiri Khan coast.

Once the PTT concludes the best route, it will hire a consultant firm to conduct a feasibility study on the gas pipeline project, he said.

If the pipeline is laid from Mataban Gulf to the Three Pagoda Pass, its length will be about 400 km, he said.

Mr Pratin said the most likely route was Mataban Gulf to the Three Pagoda Pass, which would be economically viable.

But he said the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand [EGAT] had earlier rejected this route as the site of its new electricity generating plant, fearing political problems.

He said if EGAT did not want to set up its plant along this route, it could select another.

Mr Pratin said the Mataban Gulf had three to five million cubic feet of gas reserves.

The PTT is negotiating with the Burmese Government to explore two other drills to check the reserves, he said.

Mr Pratin said no matter which route was chosen for the pipeline to transport natural gas from the Mataban Gulf to Thailand, the investment would be worth it.

It will be commercially viable to replace bunker oil with natural gas to generate electricity, he said.

He said the gas supply from the Mataban Gulf was expected to be more than 500 million cubic feet a day.

Burma will reserve 200 million cubic feet a day for local use and the rest will be transported through the pipeline for Thailand's electricity generation.

He forecast gas production for electricity generation could be possible in 1996.

He said the PTT was also studying an offshore gas pipeline route from Bongkot well parallel to the existing pipeline to Rayong coast and to the gas separation plant, and continuing to the Bang Pakong power plant.

The offshore line will be about 400 km long and need about $500 million in investment, he said.

Movement To Push for Increase in Minimum Wage

BK0403064192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 92 p A1

[Text] The labour movement will push for a Bt30 [baht] daily minimum wage for workers in Bangkok and other major provinces, a labour leader said yesterday.

Anusak Bunyapranai, president of the National Free Labour Unions Congress [NFLUC], said the NFLUC and five other major labour organizations would meet on Friday to discuss the new wage demand.

The labour movement had earlier called for a Bt120 minimum wage for the major provinces.

But Anusak said soaring prices of consumer goods and plans to increase the salaries of civil servants and employees of state enterprises by more than 20 percent made it necessary to "update" the minimum wage request.

The State Enterprises Relations Committee agreed that the pay rise for employees of state monopolies should at least equal those for government officials. The pay rise for both sectors will take effect on April 1.

Anusak said each of the labour organizations was working on information to be used to support the demand for Bt130 per day.

Last month the Wage Committee, a tripartite body responsible for the minimum wage, postponed a final decision on the new level to March 20.

A committee source yesterday said the committee was likely to meet before March 20 because it believed it might otherwise be impossible to implement a new minimum wage rate on April 1.

Wage Committee Chairman Benjakun Makarathat said last month the new minimum wage would not be less than Bt115 daily. But whether the new rate should be set as high as Bt120 daily as workers then demanded would be decided by the wage committee, he added.

Benjakun, who is also deputy permanent secretary for interior, said the committee had to study price trends of essential goods in the January to March period and the effect of the value-added tax on such products.

He said the previous wage committee ruled at its last meeting on Dec 24 that the new minimum wage for Bangkok and surrounding provinces and Phuket should be Bt106 a day if civil servants' salaries were not increased, but Bt115 a day if state workers were awarded an increase in April.

—The Cabinet yesterday approved four bills which are part of a large-scale adjustment of the salaries of soldiers, police, teachers and public prosecution officials.

The bills will be considered by the interim National Assembly soon and will take effect on April 1.

The Cabinet yesterday also agreed that a new ministerial regulation be issued to increase the salary scale of University Affairs Ministry officials. The increase will equal that of civil servants, a Cabinet press release said.

Judicial officials will also enjoy a two-step rise in their pay scale, Cabinet decided yesterday.

—About 100 female workers demonstrated in front of Government House yesterday to demand longer pregnancy leave for employees in the private sector.

The Cabinet late last year approved a 60-day maternity leave with pay for female government officials. The leave can be extended by 30 days if the female officials have saved enough days off.

The demonstrators, who said they represented workers in major industrial areas surrounding Bangkok, demanded a 90-day pregnancy leave with pay, only to be told that the request was impractical.

PM's Office Minister Saisuri Chutikun, the driving force behind the 60-day leave for government officials, told the demonstrators they should go "step by step."

Vietnam

UNHCR Paraphrases Dan Quayle's Remarks

BK0403094192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Report on the views expressed by UNCHR—United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—officials over the "issue of repatriating illegal Vietnamese immigrants from closed camps in Hong Kong"—passages in italics are recorded in English fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Summary] Dear friends: "As already reported, on 28 February a flight chartered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] ferried back to Vietnam 120 voluntary Vietnamese returnees from closed camps in Hong Kong."

While accompanying this flight home, our radio correspondent had a chance to talk to many officials in charge.

"Mr. (Manohar Rajan), the official in charge of this UNHCR-chartered flight, told us of the situation in various refugee camps in Hong Kong and of the miseries that Vietnamese refugees had to endure, particularly the heart-rending situation following the tragedy that took place at the Sekong camp in Hong Kong on the eve of the 'Year of the Monkey' Tet [Vietnamese Traditional New Year], in which some 24 people, including 10 women and children, were burned to death and more than 100 others were injured."

Mr. (Rajan) also expressed "his satisfaction over the humanitarian policy of the Vietnamese government toward those Vietnamese people who have left the country illegally." He said:

"This is the 92d flight. And about 13,500 illegal Vietnamese immigrants in Hong Kong have thus far volunteered to return home with the help of the UNHCR. We hope that there will be more similar flights." He went on: After learning that there is no hope for them to be resettled in a third country, "more people will certainly want to return to Vietnam. The point is how they will be able to start anew their normal lives when they return to Vietnam. At present, there are many projects aimed at helping reintegrate them into the local socioeconomic life."

Earlier, while in Hong Kong, our radio correspondent also had a chance to exchange views on this issue with Mr. (Robert Vance Lloyd), head of the UNHCR office in Hong Kong. According to him, the repatriation of these voluntary Vietnamese returnees has been being carried out rapidly. He said:

"You, friends, may have been well informed of the Sekong tragedy. We have on several occasions witnessed the clashes among Vietnamese refugees themselves. I think that this was due to many reasons, especially due to the fact that they have been detained in camps for a far too long period and have been deprived of a normal life."

It is necessary for us to help those Vietnamese children and adults now detained in Hong Hong return to their normal lives. Here "I would like to point out the fact that a recent statement by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle about refugees has been misunderstood. Refugees wrongly think that, based on the vice president's statement, they can continue to nuture their hope for a day when they will be resettled in a third country. But their dream will never come true.

"The U.S. Government has reiterated over Radio Voice of America that its policy toward refugees remains unchanged: that is, the United States will not accept those who are not regarded as political refugees. The United States favors the Comprehensive Program of Action (CPA) of the UNHCR. This means that the United States agrees to the mandatory repatriation of those who are not regared as political refugees. Clearly, this constitutes a retraction from the U.S. side of the U.S. vice president's remarks.

He went on: "It is precisely because of this fact that we should seek to discard those detention camps for Vietnamese in Hong Kong as soon as possible. Though, I am not a representative of the U.S. Government, I hope that newsmen will carry my message back to Vietnam and will present the heart-rendering facts about the plight of Vietnamese refugees at detention camps in Hong Kong. It is my goal to explain to potential Vietnamese refugees that they will have no future once they fled abroad. This is a very important reminder, given the fact that we need to cooperate in putting an end to the tragical saga of *refugees. UNHCR is a humanitarian organ. We do not interfere in political issues. We only want to help the government and people of Vietnam to solve this problem. The cooperation between the two sides has been carried out in a beautiful fashion."*

Repayment of 1973-79 Chinese Economic Aid Seen

OW0303100692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0928 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi, March 3 KYODO—Vietnam has agreed to recognize 1973-1979 economic aid given by China as debt to be repaid over time, sources close to the Vietnamese Communist Party said Tuesday.

The agreement was reached around the time of talks last month between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam, they said.

China gave Vietnam substantial economic assistance from 1950 to 1979, when bilateral relations worsened and the two nations fought a brief border war.

Hanoi will repay some 1.8 billion yuan, about 100 million dollars, at the exchange rates prevailing between 1973 and 1979, the sources said.

The two countries will discuss a reimbursement schedule later, they said.

The 28 billion yuan, or 1.56 billion dollars, in aid extended up to 1973 will be considered grant which hanoi will not be required to repay, they said.

When Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi visited China last November, Bejing called on Hanoi to acknowledge as debt all aid it had received since 1950, according to the sources.

China said the step was a precondition to economic cooperation with Vietnam, but Vietnam urged China to reconsider, they said.

The two countries agreed in February that Chinese aid given after the 1973 Paris ceasefire accord ending the Vietnam War would be recognized as debt.

China and Vietnam issued a joint communique last November announcing the normalization of ties after 13 years.

Counterfeiter Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

BK0203092792 Hanoi VNA in English 0657 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—The People's Court of Ho Chi Minh City on February 27-29 brought to trial Lai Kam Yuen and 15 accomplices on charge of printing and circulating counterfeit money.

According to the deposition of the main defendant Lai Kam Yuen, 36, born in Hong Kong, in September 1990 he spent USD [United States dollars] 10,000 hiring the Huodu Printing House (Hong Kong) to print 1. billion banknotes of the Vietnam dong. In mid-October 1990 Yuen packed 700 million dong in 2000-dong denomination notes into two double-bottomed containers and sent to his accomplices in Ho Chi Minh City.

On December 17, 1990 one of Yuen's accomplices named Nguyen Cuoc Duc used 812,000 dong of counterfeit money mingled with real money to buy a motorbike but was discovered by the seller who notified the security service. Nguyen Cuoc Duc was arrested and through his deposition all his accomplices were also caught except Lai Kam Yuen who was arrested on January 12, 1991 at the Phu Tho Hotel in the 11th precinct of Ho Chi Minh City. During his detention Yuen escaped and took shelter at his accomplice's house. Later he fled to Cambodia in an attempt to return to Hong Kong. But in the evening of February 5,1991 Lai kam Yuen was arrested in Phnom Penh (Cambodia).

At the court, Lai Kam Yuen said that if all the 700 million dong of counterfeit money he already smuggled into Vietnam could be consumed, he would send the remaining 800 million. Yuen and his accomplices pleaded builty to all charges.

In view of the seriousness of violation of the national security, Lai Kam Yuen was sentenced to life imprisonment for making counterfeit money, 5 years for breaking jail, life imprisonment on two counts combined. His accomplices received prison terms ranging from 2 to 15 years.

Czechoslovakia To Continue Training Workers

BK0203091592 Hanoi VNA in English 0652 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—Czechoslovakia will continue to train 250 Vietnamese workers in 1992, said Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Petr Miller in his talks here on Feb.28 with Vietnamese Minister of Education and Training Tran Hong Quan.

Moreover, Czechoslovakia has decided to grant 400 million tyona (13 million U.S. dollars) as aid to Vietnam to held in providing job-training and employment for Vietnamese guest workers who had to come back from Czechoslovakia before schedule.

Vietnam-Laos Friendship, Cooperation Hailed

BK0103160992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Feb 92

[NHAN DAN 29 February article by Dinh Nho Liem: "Vietnam-Laos Relationships in the New Stage"]

[Text] The Vietnam-Lao Joint Communique issued in Vientiane on 15 February 1992 clearly stated that the leaders of the two governments reaffirmed the determination of the two parties and peoples to defend and strengthen the Vietnamese-Lao special relationship, and to continue renovating their comprehensive cooperation, focusing on efficiency, quality, and mutual reciprocity in the interest of the development of the two countries. These important objectives have been formulated on the basis of the experiences in the past and they will serve as orientations for the Vietnamese-Lao relations from now on.

Today, in the situation of struggling while promoting cooperation in the context of the principle of peaceful coexistence, and with rapid changes in international relations and development in the economic, scientific, and technological domains, we are determined to resolutely promote the Vietnamese-Lao traditional relations to suit the new situation. This task meets the interests of the two peoples and promotes efforts to expand relations between the two countries and with other nations, especially neighboring countries and those in the region such as China, the ASEAN countries, and so forth. This is also a new contribution to building Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

We have always remembered Uncle Ho's description of the Vietnamese-Lao traditional friendship which says: People in love can climb rugged mountains, cross rivers, and go through gorges to meet each other; Vietnam and Laos have maintained a profound friendship as deep and consistent as waters in the Red and Mekong Rivers. Implementing Uncle Ho's teachings in the new stage, we have sought measures to renovate and enhance the results of cooperation between Vietnam and Laos which are aimed at defending and developing the socioeconomic situation in each country. Implementing Uncle Ho's aspirations in the new stage, we are braving obstacles and using new methods and modern facilities to fulfill our tasks. Our tasks are not easy ones and they require our efforts to rationally combine the spirit of patriotism with that of socialist internationalism in the new situation. These tasks also require us to consistently enhance the new concepts in domestic and foreign affairs, and improve our knowledge and capability in the economic, scientific, and industrial domains.

Today, Vietnam and Laos have gained their independence, unification, and sovereignty. The party and state in each of our countries are responsible for the development of their respective nation in accordance with their policies. As a result, we must strive to optimally develop the characteristics of independence, sovereignty, and self-reliance of each country. While providing assistance to each other, we must strive to eliminate such unappropriate concepts as subsidization and dependence on others, and so forth.

The allegation that Vietnam wants to establish the so-called Federation of Indochina is totally groundless. Once again, we would like to assert Vietnam's unswerving stand towards Laos and Cambodia, which is based on the principle of respecting the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of each country, noninteference in each other's internal affairs, and respect for the unique path of development in each country. We have firmly adopted this stand and will continue to do so.

The Vietnam-Laos relations have been maintained on the general basis of strengthening the close ties between the two countries and promoting relationships with neighboring countries and those in the region, especially with the People's Republic of China and the ASEAN countries. This task is consistent with the current trend and must be carried out actively.

In the new situation, each of our nations must formulate concrete policies and measures to enhance the results of our cooperation and to overcome the habit of carrying out tasks just for form's sake. We must strive to optimally exploit our potential in natural resources, in labor, and in international relations, and so forth. We must also strive to overcome our weaknesses, namely, our economic instability, poor infrastructure, shortage of capital, low standard technology, and so forth, in order to create a combined strength in our cooperation. We must conduct feasibility studies for each of our cooperation projects in order to attain high and long-term economic results. We should not carry out projects in a hasty manner but must advance firmly step by step. Implementing the agreement on border delineation, we will continue to strengthen cooperation with our Lao friends, especially with the border provinces. We will strive to oppose all sabotage activities and illegal acts to build the Vietnam-Laos border into the one of peace, friendship, and long-term cooperation. Should there be any event running counter to this objective, both sides must strive to steadily resolve the issue through sincere negotiations. They must not let the issue develop into a complex one which may affect friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

In international relations, both parties and states should consistently maintain their coordination, especially in relations with neighboring countries and other Southeast Asian nations to create favorable international conditions in favor of the socioeconomic development in Vietnam and Laos, thereby contributing to the world's people's struggle for the goals of the era.

Although obstacles and ordeals are still prevailing, we are confident that Vietnamese-Lao relations will develop further with a new quality, thanks to the traditional friendship and long-standing cooperation between the two countries as well as new opportunities. This will help each of our countries become prosperous and strong; our people's daily life will be improved, and the role and prestige of each of our countries in the Asia-Pacific Region will be increasingly enhanced.

Activities of Philippine Company Reported

BK0103152192 Hanoi VNA in English 1410 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 1—Over the past years, Imex Pan Pacific (IPP) of the Philippines has put 500 million US dollars in joint ventures in vietnam.

In September 1985, IPP joined in the opening of an air link between Ho Chi Minh City and Manila. Later, it invested 2 million US dollars in building the Continental Hotel and upgrading the Thien Hong Hotel under the Saigon Tourist company in Ho Chi Minh City. These two hotels after two years of operation have earned enough money to redeem the invested capital.

IPP has granted an interest-free two-year loan of 200,000 US dollars to the Khanh Hoa Tourist Service in central Vietnam and is cooperating Nha Trang City also in Khanh Hoa in building a zip factory capital [words indistinct]. In 1991, IPP invested in two rattan furniture factories in the city.

IPP is cooperating with ISEI Corp., Khanh Hoa in a 4 million US dollar venture for exploiting, processing and exporting white sand, and with VMC company of Vietnam in a car assembly project capitalized at 33,150,000 US dollars. IPP is also a cofounder of the Container Vietnam company with a total investment capital of 309.390 million US dollars (?with) the participation of several companies from Australia and France.

The company has applied for permits to enter into joint ventures with Vietnam for modernizing a commercial centre in Ho Chi Minh City (46 million US dollars), and in manufacturing motorbikes in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Foreign Aid Sought To Clean Contaminated Soil

BK2902074292 Hanoi VNA in English 0628 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 29—Vietnam has millions of hectares of soil contaminated by toxic chemicals used by the United States during the war and is seeking internatonal aid to clean up those areas.

A Defence Ministry official, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Ky, is now seeking such aid at 40-nation conference cosponsored by the United Nations in Dortmund, Germany, on transforming arms plants for civilian use.

He told the press there on Wednesday that he hoped international cooperation and assistance would be made available to Vietnam to help make contaminated soil usable again.

Mr. Ky said effort had been made to clean up some of the waste at former U.S bases in southern vietnam but plants could not grow in many other places.

UNDP-Funded Investment Project Signed in Hanoi

BK2902072892 Hanoi VNA in English 0634 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 29—The UNDP [United Nations Development Project]-funded project on intergated investment program for Vietnam was signed here on Feb. 28.

Signatories were Nguyen Mai, vice chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment; David Smith, UNDP resident representative in Vietnam; and Jean Marc Bonnamy, UNIDO [United Nations Industrial Development Organization] representative in Hanoi.

The project is funded by UNDP with a toal cost of USD 600,000 and will be executed by UNIDO in 18 months.

The project is aimed at conducting overall researches on issues related to Vietnam's investment environment, thereby facilitating the operation of investment projects and encouraging foreign investments in key areas in conformity with Vietnam's general development.

EC Program on Reintegrating Repatriates Signed

BK2802161192 Hanoi VNA in English 1548 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 28—A document on the international programme for the reintegration of repatriated Vietnamese has been signed here between Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien and Emiliano Fossati, general director of the External Relations Department of the European Community Commission.

Mr. Fossati and other EC officials including Endymion Wilkinson, director for Southeast Asia of the External Relations Department, and Alber Maos, ambassador and head of the EC mission in Bangkok and Vietnam, arrived [words indistinct] an official visit at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry.

During its stay here, the EC delegation were separately received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Welfare Tran Dinh Hoan, Chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment Dau Ngoc Xuan and Minister of Light Industry Dang Vu Chu. It had working sessions with concerned ministries and branches and toured a number of places in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong sport city and Quang Ninh Province where the EC programme for reintegration of repatriated Vietnamese is under way.

A Vietnamese delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affaires led by Vice Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien held talks with the visiting EC delegation. During the talks, the two sides dealt with the [words indistinct] multi-form cooperation. They noted with satisfaction at the development of the relation between Vietnam and EC since they set up diplomatic ties in November 1990.

They highly appreciated the possibilities of cooperation in various fields between Vietnam and EC, and agreed to do their utmost to promote their relations in the fields of economic cooperation, investment and trade. In the immediate future, besides the programme for reintegration, EC will help Vietnam study the EC mechanism and market, train a number managerial and technical personnel and encourage businessmen to invest in Vietnam.

The two sides highly valued the EC programme to help the repatriation and reintegration of Vietnamese illigal migrants from Hong Kong. They also discussed the international programme for reintegration of Vietnamese repatriates which is called the EC Programme—Phase 2.

This programme will be carried out in 30 months with an estimated fund of about USd 130 million contributed by EC and other countries.

Geological Work With Foreign Countries Noted

BK0103061592 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 1—Vietnam is carrying out a number of geological programs and projects in cooperation with many countries and international organizations of the United Nations.

The Scientific Committee of Oceanic Research (SCOR), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP], the International Geological Correlation Program... of the United Nations have trained more than 100 Vietnamese in geology and have provided funding for the introduction of Vietnam's subsoil riches to prospective investors and co-operators.

In 1991, many companies from France and Belgium came to jointly invest in the exploration of gold mines.

ESCAP and other UN organizations have helped Vietnam in the search for mineral resources according to Vietnam's request.

The Department of Geology has signed many agreements of cooperation with France, Belgium, Germany, Thailand, and China in the prospection for mineral resources and geological surveys.

Particularly, Bulgarian pilots have conducted many geophysical survey flights under contracts with the Vietnam Department of Geology.

Joint Ventures Signed With Foreign Investors

BK0203030892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Thanks to Vietnam's open-door policy and especially since the promulgation of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam, over 90 joint venture contracts with foreign partners, including the farming and raising of sea products, have been signed. Sixty of these contracts relate to sea products farming; 12 contracts concern the raising of sea products; and the rest concern sea products processing, trading, and consumption. Asian countries, especially Southeast Asian nations, were early to cooperate with the maritime industry of Vietnam. France, Canada, Italy, and the former Soviet Union, among other countries, have direct trade links with Vietnam.

Le Quang Dao Tours Hanoi Painting Exhibition

BK0203041092 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] On 25 February 1992, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao attended the opening of an exhibition of paintings by the late artist Nguyen Sy Ngoc at House No. 16, Ngo Quyen Street, Hanoi. On display were 100 paintings by the late artist. They were but part of his works.

Nguyen Sy Ngoc was born in 1918 and passed away in 1990. During the pre-revolution period, one of his posters called for the general uprising in August 1945. This was his first painting aimed at serving the revolutionary movement. A full account of his works is yet to be completed. However, his themes about the countryside, mountain regions, and mining areas as well as his sketches and cartoons in books and papers have exerted a good impact on Vietnam's painting. Thanks to his candid, professional drawing style, his works reflect his unique concept of fine quality art as well as his human and upright attitude toward life.

Chairman Le Quang Dao toured the exhibition hall and showed his appreciation for the late artist's creativeness and positive attitude. Nguyen Sy Ngoc's paintings have provided people, especially art lovers, with valuable works, and have contributed to the development of Vietnam's painting.

Vu Oanh Attends Symposiums on Hoa People

BK0103094592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Implementing the guidance of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Secretariat, the party Central Committee Mass Mobilization Department [PCCMMD] organized two symposiums on tasks related to the Hoa people [Vietnamese people of Chinese origin] in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City respectively on 23-24 and 25-26 February. Comrades Vu Oanh, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and Phan Minh Tan, member of the party Central Committee and head of the PCCMMD directed these symposiums.

At the symposiums, delegates heard the PCCMMD's report on the implementation of the fifth party Central Committee Secretariat directive No. 10-BTTU dated 17 November 1982 on policy toward the Hoa people. They also made proposals aimed at improving tasks related to the Hoa people in the new stage.

Delegates from sectors, branches, and localities exchanged views appraising the situation of the Hoa people, discussed achievements and shortcomings in implementing the aforesaid directive, and made proposals to effectively carry out the task in the new stage. These measures are aimed at consolidating national solidarity, enhancing the capability of the Hoa people in the renovative period, and building a bountiful and happy life for them in accordance with the spirit of the seventh CPV congress resolution.

The conference urged that the Vietnamese party and state adopt a policy aimed at ensuring the rights and obligations of citizens for the Hoa people, while promoting equality among ethnic minorities in Vietnam, respecting and developing the fine tradition and national culture of the Hoa people, thereby contributing to upholding the diversified forms of culture of the Vietnamese community.

Constitutional Amendment Committee Meets

BK0103063092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] The Committee for Constitutional Draft Amendments held its 16th enlarged session from 24-27 February 1992 under the direction of Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State and president of the Committee for Constitutional Draft Amendments.

1. The committee heard a recapitulative report on the views contributed by cadres and people nationwide to the third draft of amendments to the 1980 Constitution. The committee warmly welcomed and highly valued the views contributed by cadres and people, regarding them as proof of their awareness of the citizens's right of mastership and sense of responsibility toward the formulation of our state's basic law.

The committee commended the steering committees at all levels and in all sectors for their efforts to effectively organize the drive initiated by the committee to solicit opinions from cadres and people. The committee also commended press organs, news agencies, and radio and television stations at both central and local levels for their positive efforts to reflect the suggestions of cadres and people to the constitutional draft amendments.

2. Based on the results of serious studies on the views contributed by cadres and people, the committee held urgent working sessions to discuss measures to perfect the fourth draft of amendments to the 1980 Constitution to be submitted for consideration by the National Assembly at its upcoming session.

From now until the opening of the National Assembly session scheduled for the latter half of March 1992, the committee would like to hear more suggestions to the constitutional draft amendments from cadres and the people.

Suggestions to Draft Constitution Charter Made

Security Journal Carries Ideas

BK0303135992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] CONG AN NHAN DAN [People's Public Security] publishes in its "Contributions to the Constitutional Draft Amendments" section an article by Vu Giang, member of the Hanoi Municipal Lawyers Association, dealing with new issues raised in the constitutional draft amendments. The author said: The draft raises many new issues. The one which is of interest because it brings about hope and confidence is the fact that the new concepts on economic management and on the party's leadership over the state mechanism are not mixed up with the functions and concrete regulations to correctly resolve the relations between implementation of the people's right of mastery and the realization of the citizens' basic rights, between the process of democratization and the abuses of or violations against democratic principles, between rights stipulated under law and realities of everyday life, as well as between efforts to strengthen the legal system and the actual performance of law enforcement agencies.

Solidarity Journal Carries Views

BK0303135392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] DAI DOAN KET [Great Solidarity] publishes views by Tu Tuan Anh dealing with the spirit and letter of the constitutional draft amendments.

Peasants' Journal Carries Views

BK0303112392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] NONG DAN VIET NAM [Vietnam Peasants] carries views contributed by Mr. Dang Minh Han, of the Dong Nai Province Fatherland Front, dealing with the Vietnam Peasants Association and the Constitution. According to Mr. Han, there should be an article in the Constitution to deal with the Vietnam Peasants Association. This would, on the one hand, correctly assess the important role and position of a social class having a great part to play in national history, and on the other hand bear a rational character because it puts the peasantry on the same par with other components forming the solidarity bloc under the unified leadership of the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV].

Therefore, it is suggested that the Central Committee for Constitutional Amendments make a review and, if possible, add an article to the new Constitution to deal with the Vietnam Peasants Association, thus meeting the aspirations of peasants who are responding to the party-initiated comprehensive renovation undertaking based on a well-defined, progressive platform.

NHAN DAN Carries Changes

BK0203101192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the Daily Press Review Program]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carried an article by The Gia on Ho Chi Minh City's suggestions to the draft amendment of the constitution. The article says: most of the suggestions contend that the draft amendment to the 1980 Constitution has been carefully written and as a result it has many new features compared to the current constitution. The draft presents the international situation and the nation's development prospects. It outlines major reforms to improve the economy and strengthen citizens' rights and duties, and reflects many renovation concepts set by the seventh national party congress aimed at broadening democracy, creating a new driving force, enhancing self-reliance, and building a strong and prosperous nation.

The draft amendment, however, still has some weak points. Forty of its 147 articles use phrases such as "in accordance with the law" or "as stipulated by the law," thus lessening the constitution's affirmative nature. We suggest that fewer such phrases be used in articles. Moreover, there are contradictions in some articles. For example, Article 115, mentions the setting up of the people's councils and administrative committees at administrative units must be carried out in accordance with the law; while articles 118 and 123 asserts that people's councils will be established at the provincial, district, subward, and village levels. The draft has introduced too many ordinary laws and detailed procedures on the formulation of laws and regulations. This has made the constitution less intelligible. As a result, efforts should be made to eliminate portions with the current events because the constitution will last for a relatively long time.

Ben Tre Province People Add Ideas

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[Text] In Ben Tre Province, nearly 160,000 people have contributed 36,000 suggestions to the draft amendments to the 1980 Constitution. Through these suggestions, people of all walks of life unanimously agreed with the draft amendments to the Constitution, felt very encouraged by the renovation concepts of the party and state in all fields, and hoped that the Constitution would be perfected and promulgated at an early date.

Also through those discussions on the constitutional draft amendments, many citizens have contributed practical opinions, thus helping cadres in charge of grassroots organizations draw experiences in management and leadership, promptly rectify mistakes committed by cadres and party members, consolidate the state mechanism, and strengthen grassroots organizations.

However, the drive to solicit people's suggestions to the draft amendments to the 1980 Constitution has yet to be organized on a widespread basis in Ben Tre Province. Some grassroots organizations have not yet presented or have been slow to present the main contents of the constitutional draft amendments in a concentrated way.

Radio Reports Free Market Prices on 28 February

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[Text] According to statistics released by the State Pricing Commission, the free market prices in the country on 28 February are as follows:

—The price of a kilogram of ordinary rice is 2,600 dong in Hanoi, 2,500 dong in Haiphong, 2,700 dong in Lang Son and Quang Ninh, 2,300 dong in Thai Binh and Ha Nam Ninh, 2,200 dong in Danang, 2,250 dong in Ho Chi Minh City, 2,800 dong in Can Tho, and 1,800 dong in Ca Mau and Long Xuyen.

—The price of a kilogram of pork loin is 12,500 dong in Hanoi and Haiphong, 14,000 dong in Lang Son and Quang Ninh, 11,500 dong in Thai Binh and Ha Nam Ninh, 15,000 dong in Danang, 19,000 dong in Ho Chi Minh City, and 16,000 in Can Tho, Ca Mau, and Long Xuyen.

Prices of gold and the dollar remain stable.

—The price of a chi of 98-percent pure gold is 510,000 dong in Hanoi, 515,000 dong in Haiphong, 506,000 dong in Danang, and 530,000 dong in Ca Mau. A chi of 96-percent pure gold is 503,000 dong in Ho Chi Minh City.

—The price of a U.S. dollar is 11,750 dong in Hanoi, 11,780 dong in Haiphong, 11,800 in Danang, 11,870 dong in Ho Chi Minh City, and 11,950 in Can Tho.

—The price of a yuan is 2,000 dong in Lang Son and 1,900 dong in Quang Ninh.